



Ingenious and Diverting
LETTERS
OF A
LADY'S TRAVELS
h INTO
SPAIN;

DESCRIBING
The Devotions, Nunneries, Humour,
Customs, Laws, Militia, Trade, Diet,
and Recreations of that PEOPLE.

Intermix'd with
Great Variety of modern Adventures, and
surprizing Accidents; being the trueſt and
beſt REMARKS extant, on that Court
and Country.

The Tenth EDITION.
With the Addition of a LETTER of the
State of *Spain*, as it was in the Year 1700.
By an English Gentleman.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

L O N D O N:

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T O
Sir Richard Steele.

SIR,



HE Reputation you have obtain'd in the World for Learning, Wit, good Sense, and a general Knowledge of Mankind, very much exposes you to Addresses of this Nature.

I should hardly presume to press in with this little Work, amongst the Many who seek to shadow their Labours under your Patronage, but that I think the ingenious Productions of the Fair Sex have a particular Claim to

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it. You shew in several of your Writings a special Regard to the Improvement of that Sex in the politer Part of Knowledge, by endeavouring to rescue them from the Prejudices of a narrow Education, and to enlarge their Notions of Things. The Example this Lady affords them of Wit, Judgment and Capacity, may excite the Emulation of some, and concur with your Motives to answer that End. This Reason, together with the Assurances I have of your Readiness to encourage such Works as have a Tendency to inform the Judgments, or improve any of the Virtues of Mankind, makes me flatter myself you will give Shelter to a new Edition of this. I need not say much as to the
judicious

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judicious Performance of it; you will easily perceive the Observation she has made upon the Humours of the *Spaniard* to be very just; the Dress she has put them in elegant and neat; and her Expression familiar, easy and clear.

The former Impressions of this Book have been very well receiv'd in the World, and I doubt not but this will meet with a better Reception than any yet have done, by coming into it under your Protection. Whatever you espouse, comes sufficiently recommended, and with those that know you, will be taken for a convincing Argument of its own Merit. I cannot persuade myself silently to pass over one Motive which sway'd very much with me to make you this Address; and that is, a Desire I

A 3 have

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have long entertain'd for an Opportunity to declare the Veneration and Esteem I have for you, as a Gentleman, a Scholar, and a Patriot. The two first Characters you enjoy undisturb'd, and to make good the last, you have the Applauses of all true *Britons*, for the vigorous Efforts you made against the late Attacks upon the Liberties of your Country, by exposing the false Reasonings of those Men, who would have deluded us into a fatal Security, till Popery and Tyranny had come down upon us like a mighty Torrent, and overwhelmed us.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant.



A
RELATION
OF A
Voyage to *SPAIN*,
IN
SEVERAL LETTERS.



LETTER I.



BEING you are so earnest with me to let you know all my Adventures, and whatsoever I have observed during my Travels, you must therefore be contented (my dear Cousin) to bear with a great many trifling Occurrences, before you can meet with

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what will please you. I know your Fancy is so nice and delicate, that none but extraordinary Accidents can entertain you ; and I wish I had no others to relate ; but recounting Things faithfully, as they have happened, you must be contented therewith.

I gave you an Account in my last, of what I met with as far as *Bayonne* : you know this is a Town in *France*, Frontier to *Spain*, wash'd by the Rivers *d' Adour* and *Nivelle*, which join together ; and the Sea comes up to them. The Port and Trade are considerable: I came from *Aix* by Water, and observ'd that the Boat-Men of *Adour* have the same Custom as those of *Carrone* ; which is to say, that in passing by one another, they set up a Hallowing ; and they had rather lose their Wages than to forbear these Sort of Shoutings, altho' exceeding vexatious to those who are not used to them. There are two Castles strong enough to defend the Town, and there are about it several pleasant Walks.

At my Arrival there, I intreated the Baron *de Castleneau*, who had accompany'd me from *Aix*, to bring me acquainted with some Women, with whom I might spend my Time with less Impatience, till the Litters came, which were to be sent to me from *St. Sebastian*.

He

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He readily complied with my Request ; for being a Person of Quality and Worth, he is much esteemed at *Bayonne*. He fail'd not the next Morning to bring several Ladies to visit me.

These Women begin here to feel the scorching Heats of the Sun ; their Complexion is dark, their Eyes sparkling, they are charming enough, their Wits are sharp, and I could give you a farther Account of their Capacities, could I have better understood what they said ; not but that they could all speak *French*, yet with such a different Dialect, as surpass'd my Understanding.

Some who came to see me, brought little sucking Pigs under their Arms, as we do little Dogs. It's true they were very spruce, and several of them had Collars of Ribbands of various Colours. However, this Custom looks very odd, and I cannot but think that several among themselves are disgusted at it. When they danced, they must set them down, and let these grunting Animals run about the Chamber, where they made a very pleasant Harmony. These Ladies danc'd at my Intreaty, the Baron of *Castleneau* having sent for Pipes and Tabors.

The Gentlemen who attended the Ladies, took each of them her whom he had brought

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brought with him, and the Dance began in a Round, all holding Hands. They had afterwards long Canes brought them, and then each Spark taking hold of the Lady's Handkerchief, which separated them from one another, mov'd very gracefully at the Sound of this martial Sort of Musick, which inspired them with such Heat, that they seem'd not able to moderate it. This seem'd to me to resemble the *Pyrrhic* Dance so much celebrated by the Antients; for these Gentlemen and Ladies made so many Turns, Frisks and Capers, their Canes being thrown up into the Air, and dexterously caught again, that it is impossible to describe their Art and Agility, and I had a great deal of Pleasure in seeing them; but methoughts it lasted too long, and I began to grow weary of this ill-ordered Ball, when the Baron *de Castle-neau*, who perceiv'd it, caus'd several Baskets of dried Fruit to be brought in; they are the *Jews* who pass for *Portuguese*, and dwell at *Bayonne*, who transport them from *Genoa*, and furnish all the Country with them. We wanted not for *Limonade*, and other refreshing Waters, of which these Ladies drank heartily; and so the Entertainment ended.

I was carry'd the next Morning to see the Synagogue of the *Jews*, in the Suburb
of

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of the Holy Spirit, but met with nothing remarkable there. Monsieur *de St. Pe*, the King's Lieutenant who came to see me, tho' much troubled with the Gout, invited me to dine at his House, where I was most deliciously entertain'd; for this is a Country abounding with good Cheer, and at cheap Rates. I found here Women of Quality that were very handsome, whom he had invited to bear me Company. The Sight of the Castle which faces the River, is very pleasant, and it has always a good Garison in it.

At my Return to my Lodging I was surpriz'd to find several Peices of Linen, which were brought to me from the Ladies who came to see me, with Baskets full of dried Sweet-Meats. This Treatment seem'd to be very obliging to a Lady whom they had not known above four or five Days. But I must not forget to tell you, there is not any finer Linen in the World than that which is made in this Country; some of which is open like Net-Work, and the Threads of it finer than Hair; and I remember, that travelling thro' the Villages of *Bourdeaux*, which may rather be called Desarts, the poor Peasants living so wretchedly, I found among them as neat Napkins as those used among Persons of Quality at *Paris*.

I fail'd

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I fail'd not to send these Ladies such little Presents which I thought might please them. I perceived they were great Admirers of Ribbands, and wear a great many on their Heads and Ears, which made me send them a considerable Quantity, to which I added several Fans; and they by Way of Return, presented me with Gloves and Thread-Stockings most delicately knit.

In sending them to me, they desired me to go to the next Chapel, which was not far from my Quarters, where they intended to regale me with the best Musick the Town could afford; but tho' they were very good Voices, yet there is no great Pleasure in hearing them, because they want both Air and Skill.

The Litters which I expected from *Spain* being come, I prepar'd for my Departure, but I never met any Thing dearer than these Sort of Equipages, for each Litter has a Master that accompanies it, who keeps the Gravity of a *Roman* Senator, being mounted on a Mule, and his Man on another, with which they release ever and anon those that carry the Litter. I had two, I took the greatest for myself and my Child, and had besides four Mules for my Servants, and two others for my Baggage. To conduct them there were other two Masters and two Men. You see what Charge

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Charge one is at to go to *Madrid*, seeing you must pay not only for their Attendance on you forwards, but the same Price for their Return back. However, we must submit to their Customs, and suffer ourselves to be peel'd by them.

I found at *Bayonne* several *Turks* and *Moors*, and I think a worse Sort of People, and these are Custom-House Men. I had caused my Trunks to be weighed at *Paris*, that I might have the less to do with these Sort of People; but they were more subtle, or to speak better, more obstinate than I, so that I was forc'd to give them whatsoever they demanded. Scarcely was I got clear from them, when the Drums, Trumpets, Pipes, and Violins of the Town, came thundring upon me; they follow'd me farther than *St. Anthony's Gate*, thro' which you pass for *Spain* to *Biscay*. They play'd each of them in their Way, and all together without any Harmony, which was enough to drive any one out of their Senses. I ordered some Money to be given them, upon which they left persecuting me. As soon as we had left *Bayonne*, we enter'd into a large barren Heath, where we saw nothing but Chestnut-Trees; but afterwards passed along by the Sea, whose Sand makes a delightful Way, and a pleasant Prospect.

We

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We arrived in good Time at *St. John de Luz*. Nothing can be pleasanter than this Borough, which is the greatest in *France*, and the best built. There are several smaller Cities. Its Port lies between two Mountains, which Nature seems to have expressly placed to defend it from Storms. The River *Nivelle* disgorges itself therein, the Sea comes up very high in it, and the greatest Barks come up commodiously to the Key. The Seamen here are very skilful at catching Whales, and other large Fish. We were here very well entertain'd, so that our Tables were covered with all Sorts of wild Fowl; but our Beds were not answerable, being stuck with Feathers whose Pinions ran into our Sides, and we wanted Quilts to lay on the Top of them. I thought when we were to pay, that I should have had a large Reckoning, but they only demanded of me half a *Lewis d'Or*, when it would have cost more than five Pistoles at *Paris*. The Situation of *St. John de Luz* is extremely agreeable.

In the most spacious Part of the Town you see here a very fine Church, built after the modern Fashion, and here is a Passage over the River *Nivelle*, on a Wooden Bridge of great Length. Here are Toll-Gatherers, who make you pay for every Thing you carry with you, not excepting
your

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your Clothes; this Tax is demanded at their Pleasure, and 'tis excessive on Strangers. I was weary with speaking *French* to them, and protesting I was no *Spaniard*, they feigning not to understand me, sneering in my Face, and wrapping up their Heads in their Hooded-Gowns; they seem'd to me to be Thieves, disguised like *Capuchins*; in short they tax'd me eighteen Crowns, and would persuade me, they us'd me well, tho' I found the contrary: But I have already told you (dear Cousin) that when you travel this Country, you must stock yourself with Patience, and good Store of Money.

I saw the Castle of *Artois*, which seems a strong Place; and a little farther *Oroignes*, where the *Biscay* Tongue is spoken without either *French* or *Spanish*. I design'd to lie at *Irun*, which is but three Leagues distant from *St. John de Luz*, and I had set out that Afternoon, but the Dispute which we had with the Watch on the Bridge, the Difficulty we had in passing the Mountains, and the ill Weather join'd to other little Difficulties which happen'd, were the Cause that it was Night before we arriv'd on the Borders of the River *Bidassoa*, which separates *France* from *Spain*. I observ'd along the Way from *Bayonne* thither, little Carriages, on which they transport every Thing,

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Thing, which having only two Iron Wheels, the Noise they make is so great, that they are heard a Mile off; when they are many of them together, which often happens, for you often meet with sixty or seventy at a Time, they are drawn by Oxen. I have seen the same in the Villages of *Bourdeaux*, and especially on the Side of *Aix*.

The River of *Bidassoa* is usually very small, but the Snows melting had increased it to such a Degree, that we had no small Trouble to pass it, some in a Boat, and others swimming on their Mules. The Moon shined very bright, by Means of which I was shew'd on the right Hand the *Isle of Conference*, where the Marriage of our King was made with *Maria Theresa*, *Infanta* of *Spain*. I saw a while after the Fort of *Fontarabia*, which belongs to the King of *Spain*, standing on the Mouth of this small River. The Flux and Reflux of the Sea arrives here. Our Kings heretofore pretended, it belonged to them: there have been such great Contests hereupon, especially by the Inhabitants of *Fontarabia* and those of *Andayo*, that they have several Times come to Blows. This oblig'd *Lewis XII.* and *Ferdinand* to agree, that it should be common to both Nations. The *French* and *Spaniards* take Toll equally, these last making those pay who pass into *Spain*, and the former

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mer doing the like in relation to those who pass over to *France*.

War does not hinder Commerce on this Frontier; it's true they cannot subsist without it, seeing they must perish thro' Want, did they not assist one another.

This Country called *Biscay* is full of high Mountains, where are several Iron Mines. The *Biscaneers* climb up the Rocks as easily, and with as great Swiftness as Stags. Their Language (if one may call such *Jargon* Language) is very poor, seeing one Word signifies abundance of Things; there are none but those born in the Country that can understand it, and I am told, that to the end it may be more particularly theirs, they make no use of it in Writing; they make their Children to read and write *French* and *Spanish*, according to which King's Subjects they are. It's certain as soon as I pass'd the little River of *Bidassoa*, I was not understood, unless I spake *Castilian*; and not above a Quarter of an Hour before, I should not have been understood, had I not spoke *French*.

I found on the other Side of this River a Banker of *St. Sebastian*, to whom I was recommended, he tarried for me with two of his Relations. They were cloathed after the French Manner, but ridiculously; their *Just-au-corps* being short and large, and their

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their Sleeves hanging down very short; those of their Shirts were so large, that they hung down below their *Just-au-corps*: They had Bands without Collars; and Perriwigs, one of which had Hair enough for four, and so frizled, as made them look as if they were frightened. People worse drest you cannot meet with. Those who wear their own Hair, wear it very long and close, parting it on the Crown, and pass Part of it behind their Ears; but what Kind of Ears think you? those of *Midas* were not larger, and I believe that to lengthen them, they are stretch'd when they be young; without question they find some Kind of Beauty herein.

My three *Spaniards* made me, in bad *French*, most tedious and dull Compliments. We pass'd thro' the Borough of *Tran*, which is about a Quarter of a League from the River, and came afterwards to *Irun*, which is distant about another Quarter of a League; this little Town is the first of *Spain* which you meet with, leaving *France*. It's ill built, the Streets are unequal, and there's nothing worth speaking of. We enter'd into the Inn thro' the Stable, where are the Stairs on which you must ascend to your Chamber; this is the Country's Fashion. I found this House very light, by a great many Candles, which were as small as Pack-Thread; there were

at

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at least forty in my Chamber, fix'd on little Bits of Wood; in the midst of them stood a Pan of Coals burning, made of Olive Rind, to take away the Scent of the Candles.

I had a great Supper which my Gallants the *Spaniards* had caused to be made ready for me, but all was so full of Garlick, Saffron and Spice, that I could eat nothing; and I had made very bad Cheer, had not my Cook made me a little Ragoust of what he could find.

Determining to go but to *St. Sebastian* the next Morning, which is but seven or eight Leagues, I thought to dine before I set out. I was sitting at Table, when one of my Women brought me my Watch to wind it up, as it was my Custom at Noon; it was a Striking-Watch of *Tompion's* Make, and cost me fifty *Lewis's*. My Banker, who was by me, shew'd some Desire to see it; I gave it him with a customary Civility. This was enough, my Blade rises, and makes me a profound Reverence, telling me, he did not deserve so considerable Present, but such a Lady as I could make no other: that he would engage his Faith and Reputation, that he would never part with my Watch as long as he liv'd, and that he found himself extreamly obliged to me; he kiss'd it at the End of this
pleasant

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pleasant Compliment, and thrust it into his Pocket which was deeper than a Sack. You'll take me to be a very great Sot in saying nothing to all this, and I do not wonder at it; but I confess ingenuously, I was so surpriz'd at his Proceeding, that the Watch was out of Sight before I could resolve on what I was to do. My Women, and the rest of my Servants who were about me, star'd on me, and I on them, blushing with Shame and Vexation to be thus caught. However, I recollected myself, and consider'd, that this Man was to pay me a good round Sum of Money, for the Charge of my Journey, and to return Money to *Bourdeaux*, where I had taken it up; that having Bills of Credit on him, he might use several Tricks to me, and Puts-off, which might make me spend twice the Value of the Watch. In fine, I let him keep it, and endeavour'd to do myself Honour from a Thing which gave me great Mortification.

I have learned since this little Adventure, that 'tis the Custom in *Spain*, when any Thing is presented to one, if he likes it, and kisses your Hand, he may take it with him: this is a very pleasant Fashion, and being sufficiently acquainted with it, 'twill be my Fault if I am trap'd again.

I left

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I left this Inn, where they peel'd me sufficiently, for this is a greivous dear Country, and every one strives to be rich at his Neighbour's Cost. A while after we left the Town, we enter'd on the *Pyrenean* Mountains, which are so high and steep, that looking down, you see, not without Horror, the Precipices which environ them; we went thus as far as *Rentery*. *Don Antonio* (which was my Banker's Name) went before me, and for my more commodious Passage, he obliged me to quit my Litter; for altho' we had travers'd several Mountains, yet there remain'd more difficult to pass; he made me to enter into a little Boat, which he had prepar'd to go down the River of *Andayo*, till we were near the Mouth of the Sea, where we saw the King of *Spain's* Galleons; there were three very fine and large ones. Our little Boats were set forth with gilt Streamers; they were managed by Girls who were very lusty and handsome; there are three in each, two that row, and one that holds the Rudder.

These Wenches are well shap'd, of Chestnut Complexion; they have very good Teeth; Hair black, which they tie up with Ribbands in Knots, and so let it hang behind them: they wear a kind of Veil on their Heads, made of Muslin, embroider'd with

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with Flowers of Gold and Silk, which hangs loose, and covers their Breasts: they wear Pendants in their Ears of Gold and Pearls, and Bracelets of Coral: they have a kind of *Just-au-corps* like our *Gypsies*, whose Sleeves are very strait. I can assure you they charmed me. I was told, these Wenches swim like Fishes, and suffer neither Women nor Men among them. This is a kind of Republick, where they repair from all Parts, and where their Parents send them very young.

When they are willing to marry, they go to Mafs at *Fontarabia*, which is the nearest Town to them; and there the young Men come to chuse them Wives to their Humour. He that will engage himself in *Hymen's* Bonds, goes to his Mistress's Parents, declares to them his Intentions, and regulates every Thing with them. And this being done, Notice of it is given to the Maid; if she likes the Party, she retires to the House where the Nuptials are celebrated.

I never saw a more gay Air than that on their Countenances; they have little Habitations along the Water-Side, and there are old Maidens, to whom the younger pay Respect, as to their Mothers: they related these Particulars to us in their Language, and we hearken'd to them with great Delight,

light, when the Devil, who never sleeps, disturb'd us with a vexatious Adventure.

My Cook, who is a *Gascon*, and exactly of the Humour of those of that Country, was in one of our Boats behind us, at some Distance, very near a young *Biscaneer*, who appear'd to him very handsome; he contented not himself with telling her as much, but would have rudely turn'd up her Veil. She being not us'd to this Sort of plain Dealing, without any Words, broke his Head with her Oar. Having done this Exploit, Fear seizing on her, she threw herself immediately into the Water, tho' the Season was very cold, and swam with great Swiftnefs; but having all her Clothes on, and it being far to the Shore, her Strength began to fail her. Several of these Wenches who saw this at Land, leap'd immediately into their Boats, to her Assistance; when those who had remain'd in the Boat with the Cook, fearing the Loss of their Companion, fell on him like two Furies, resolving by all Means to drown him, and had like two or three Times to have overturn'd their little Vessel; which we beholding from ours had much ado to part and appease them.

I assure you, the foolish *Gascon* was so cruelly handled, that he was all over Blood; and my Banker told me, that these young

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young *Biscaneers* provok'd, are worse than Lions. In fine, we came to Land, but was scarcely on Shore, but we saw this Wench, who was sav'd out of the Water, making up towards us, with near fifty others, each with an Oar on her Shoulder, marching in Battle Array, with Fife and Drum; when she who was to be the Mouth of their Company advanc'd, and calling me several Times *Andria*, which is to say, *Madam*, (so that's all I could retain of her Speech) gave me to understand, that they would have my Cook's Skin, if Satisfaction were not made proportionable to the Damage done their Companions Clothes. At the ending of which Words, the she Drummers fell loudly beating their Drums, and the rest of their *Amazons* set up a Hollowing, Leaping, and Dancing, and Fencing with their Oars in a most astonishing Manner.

Don Antonio, to make me amends for the Present he had forced from me, (I can't but often mention it, lying on my Heart as it does) undertook to make Peace. He found that my Cook, who thought himself sufficiently beaten, had Reason to give nothing; and therefore he distributed some Peices of Money among this Marine Troop; on Receipt of which, they set forth louder Hollows than before, and wish'd

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wish'd me a good Journey and speedy Return, each of them dancing and singing at the Sound of their Pipes and Tabors.

We enter'd into a very rough Way, and ascended a very long and narrow Path, on the Side of which there are Precipices, so that I was greatly afraid, lest the Mules which carry'd my Litter should stumble; we afterwards pass'd over a large sandy Field. I tarried some Time in the Convent of *St. Francis*, which stands near the River of *Andaye*. We pass'd over it on a very long wooden Bridge, and tho' we were near *St. Sebastian*, yet we could not then perceive it, because a Mountain of Sand hid the Town. It is situated on the Foot of a Mountain, which serves on one Side as a Rampart against the Sea, and the Vessels come to the Foot of this Mountain, to shelter them from the Storms; for here arise extraordinary Tempests, that the Ships at Anchor perish in the Port; it is deep, and defended by two Moles, which leave only as much Room as is requisite for one Vessel to pass at a Time. They have rais'd here a great four-square Tower, where there is ever a good Garrison, to defend the Place in case of Assault: it was a fine Day for the Season. I found the Town very pleasant, being surrounded with a double Wall; there

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are mounted several Peices of Cannon on that Part towards the Sea, with Bastions and Half-Moons. The Town is situated in a Province of *Spain*, call'd *Guipuscoa*; the out Parts are exceeding pleasant, by reason that the Sea, as I now said, serves for a Channel to it. The Streets of this Town are long and large, pav'd with great white Stones, which are always clean; the Houses are well enough, and the Churches decent, in which the Altars are of Wood, on which are hung little Pictures from Top to Bottom. Mines of Iron and Steel abound in this Country, finer and purer perhaps than in any other Parts of *Europe*, and this is the greatest Part of their Trade. Here the Wool which comes from *Castile* is embarked, which makes a considerable Part of their Traffick. *Bilboa* and *St. Sebastian* are two of the most considerable Ports which the King of *Spain* has on the Ocean. The Castle stands very high, and may make an indifferent Defence; here are mounted several fine Peices of Cannon, and there are a great many along the Ramparts, but the Garrison is so weak, that the Women might conquer them with their Distaffs.

Every Thing is as dear in this Town as in *Paris*, yet they fare well here: Fish is excellent, and I was told Fruit was the same.

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same. I lay in the the best Inn, and when I had been there some Time, *Don Ferdinand de Toledo* sent his Gentleman to enquire whether his Visit would not be troublesome to me. My Banker who knew him, and who was then in my Chamber, told me, he was a *Spaniard* of great Quality, Nephew to the Duke of *Alva*; that he came from *Flanders*, and was going to *Madrid*.

I received him with that Civility which was due to his Birth, and soon thereunto adjoin'd particular Respects to his own Merit. He is a Gentleman of good Presence, has Wit and Politeness, is complaisant and agreeable; he speaks as good *French* as I do, but understanding *Spanish*, and being desirous to speak it better, we therefore discoursed only in that Language.

I was very well satisfied with his Carriage. He told me he came Post hither from *Brussels*, and if I pleased he would increase my Train, and be one of my Company. I thought he jested, and answered him accordingly; but he added, the Ways were so full of Snow, that indeed they could not ride Post; that he could make more speed on Horses than in Litters; but the Honour of accompanying me, made abundant Recompence for that.

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In a Word, I say he was a civil Person, and came no way short of the Gallantry natural to the *Spanish* Cavaliers: I therefore consider'd how advantageous it might prove to have a Man of this Quality and Country, who could make himself be heard and obey'd by the Muletteers, who have Iron Souls and no Consciences.

I told him, I was very glad I met with him, and the Fatigue of the Road would be lessen'd by his Company. He immediately thereupon order'd his Gentleman to find a Litter for him. It being late, he took his leave of me, and I betook myself to eat a good Supper; for, my dear Cousin, I am none of those romantick Ladies that never eat.

Scarcely did I begin to sleep, when I heard some body speak *French* so near me, that I thought at first 'twas in my Chamber; but having hearken'd with more Attention, I found 'twas in a Chamber separated from mine by only some thin Boards, and those ill-join'd. I drew my Curtain, and saw Light thro' the Crevices, and at the same Time, two Young Women, the eldest of which appear'd not to be above Seventeen or Eighteen; neither of them were of those Beauties without Defect; yet they were so pretty, spake so sweetly, and had such great Sweetness in their Countenances, that I was much taken with them.

The

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The youngest, who seem'd to continue the Conversation, said to the other : ' No, my dear Sister, there is no Remedy to our Misfortunes ; we must die, or get them out of the Clutches of this villainous Dotard. I am resolute for any Thing, reply'd the other, fetching a deep Sigh, should it cost me my Life. What remains ? Have we not sacrificed all for them ?' Then considering awhile their Misfortunes, they mutually embraced, and began to weep in a most piteous Manner : and having consulted awhile, and spake some other Words, the greatest Part of which were interrupted by their Sighs, they concluded on writing, which they did : and here is most of what I heard them read to one another.

' Judge not of my Love and Grief by my Words : I have none can express either the one or the other. But remember you ruin me, unless you betake yourself to the greatest Extremities against him that persecutes us. He has now sent me Word, That if we delay our Departure, he will have us seiz'd. Consider what he deserves for this base Usage of us ; and remember you owe me all, seeing you owe me my Heart.

I think the other Billet was in these Terms :

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‘ Could I secure thee thy Happiness in
‘ losing mine, I love thee sufficiently to
‘ offer thee such a Sacrifice. Yes, I would
‘ fly from thee, couldst thou be happy
‘ without me; but I know thy Heart too
‘ well to believe this. Yet thou remainest
‘ as quiet in thy Prison, as if I were with
‘ thee. Break thy Chains without more
‘ Delay; punish the Enemy of our Loves:
‘ My Heart shall be thy Recompence.’

Having made up these Billets, they went out together: and I profess I was not a little uneasy for them, and no less curious to know these poor Ladies Misfortunes. This hinder’d me from sleeping, and I was expecting their Return, when immediately there was a great Uproar in the House. I saw an Old Man enter the Chamber, attended by a great many Servants. He held one of these young Women by the Hair of the Head, which he had wound about his Arm, and drew her after him as a wretched Sacrifice. Her Sister was not treated with less Cruelty by those who led her. ‘ Perfidious Wretches, said he to
‘ them, not content with the irreparable Injury you do my Nephews, you would persuade them to be my Executioners. Had
‘ I not surpriz’d you with these seducing
‘ Letters, what might have happen’d, what
‘ dreadful Tragedies might I not have expected? But you shall pay once for all: as
‘ soon

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‘soon as ever the Day appears, I will have
‘you punish’d as you deserve. Ah Sir!
‘said she whom he held, remember we are
‘Women of Quality, and that our Alliance
‘can be no Dishonour to you; that your
‘Nephews have given us their Faith, and
‘we ours to them; that in so tender an Age
‘we have left all for their sakes; that we
‘are Strangers, and have no Friends here:
‘What will become of us? We dare not
‘return to our Relations. If you are for
‘constraining us to this, or for putting us
‘in Prison, let us intreat you rather pre-
‘sently to dispatch us out of the World.’

The Tears, which they shed in such
Abundance, wrought in me the greatest
Compassion; and had the Old Man been as
tender as I, he had soon freed them from
their Trouble.

My Women, who had heard such a great
Disturbance, and so near my Chamber, a-
rose, in the Fear of some Mishap towards
me. I made Signs to them to draw near
softly, and to behold thro’ the Boards this
sorrowful Spectacle. We hearken’d to what
they said; when two Men, with their
Swords in their Hands, enter’d my Cham-
ber, the Door of which my Women had
left open: They had Despair painted on
their Faces, and Rage in their Eyes. I
was so greatly frightened, that I cannot
express it to you. They looked on one

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another without speaking a Word ; and having heard the Old Man's Voice, they ran on that Side.

I did not doubt but 'twas the two Lovers ; and 'twas them, indeed, who entred like two Lions into this Chamber : They struck these Servants with so great Terror, that never a one of them dare approach his Master, to defend him, when his Nephews advanced towards him, and set their Swords to his Throat : ' *Barbarian!* said they to him, can you thus use Women of Quality, that are to be our Wives ? Because you are our Guardian, must you therefore be our Tyrant ? And is not the separating of us from what we love, the taking of our Lives from us ? It's now in our Power to take a just Vengeance of you ; but we cannot do it to a Man of your Age, who cannot defend your self. Give us then your Word, and swear by all that's good and holy, that, in Acknowledgement for the Life we give you, you will contribute to our Happiness, and suffer us to perform what we have promis'd.'

The poor old Wretch was so affrighted, that he could hardly make any Answer ; however, he swore more than they would have him ; he fell on his Knees, and kissed an hundred Times his Thumb laid
across

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across one of his Fingers, after the Manner of *Spain*. Yet he told them, whatever he had done, was only in regard to their Interest; however, he would not in any sort, for the future, oppose their Inclinations in reference to this Marriage. Two of the Domesticks took him by the Arms, and rather carry'd him away than led him. Then the Gentlemen seeing themselves free, threw themselves into their Mistresses Arms; they said to one another whatever Grief, Love and Joy, do usually inspire on such Occasions. But, in Truth, one must have a Heart as affected and content as theirs, to repeat all these Things: They are only proper to Persons more tender than you are, my dear Cousin. But I hope you will excuse this Relation; I was so tir'd, in having not yet slept, that I could scarce hear any more, but confusedly: And to hear no more, I got farther into Bed, and threw the Quilt over my Head.

The next Morning, Don *Fernando de Toledo* sent me some choice Wines, with great Quantity of Oranges and Sweetmeats. As soon as he thought it a proper Time to visit me, he came: Having thank'd him for his Present, I ask'd him, whether he had heard nothing of what had pass'd in the Night? He told me, No; for he had lain in another Part of

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the House. I was about relating to him what I knew, when our Hostess enter'd the Chamber: She came from the two Gentlemen who had given me that Disturbance with their Swords in their Hands, intreating me to receive their Excuses: She likewise told me, that two young Ladies desired they might wait on me, and kiss my Hand. I answer'd these Civilities as I ought; and they soon enter'd.

What charming Effects does the Return of Joy produce? I found these Gentlemen very well shap'd, and these Ladies very lovely; neither the one nor the other had any more on their Countenances the Characters of Despair; an Air of Gaiety display'd itself in all their Words and Gestures. The eldest of the two Brethren made the most handsome Excuse possible for his Mistake in entering my Chamber: He added, he had well observed the Fear had caus'd me; but told me, that in that Moment he was so transported, that he was capable of no other Thought but the rescuing of his Mistress. ' You would
' have been to blame, said I to him,
' should you have thought of any Thing
' else: However, if it be true, you are willing to make me Satisfaction for the Alarm you have given me, you must not refuse the gratifying my Curiosity. With
' these

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these fair Ladies Leave, inform me what has reduced all of you to these Extremities you were in.' He look'd on them, as if it were to ask their Approbation, which they willingly granted; and he thus began: 'We are two Brothers, Madam, Natives of *Burgos*, and of one of the best Families of this City. We were very young when we fell into the Hands of an Uncle, who took Care of our Education and Estates, which are so considerable, that we need not envy others on that Account; Don *Diego* is our Uncle's Name: He had made long since a firm Friendship with a Gentleman living near *Blaye*, whose Merit is far above his Fortune; he is called Monsieur *de Messignac*: Our Uncle resolving to send us for some Time into *France*, he wrote hereupon to his Friend, who offer'd him his House, which he joyfully accepted. He made us set out, and it is a Year since we were receiv'd there with great Civility. Madam *de Messignac* us'd us as her own Children; she has several, but of her four Daughters, those you see, are the most amiable. It would have been very difficult to have seen them every Day, to dwell with them, and yet not to have loved them.

'My Brother at first conceal'd from me his growing Passion; and I hid mine
' from

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' from him : We were both of us very
 ' melancholy ; the Trouble of loving, with-
 ' out being lov'd again, and the Fear of
 ' displeasing those who caus'd our Passion,
 ' cruelly tormented us : But a new Vexa-
 ' tion did greatly increase our Disquiet,
 ' which was a restless Jealousy we had
 ' one of another : My Brother plainly
 ' saw I was in love, and thought it was
 ' with his Mistress : I look'd on him like-
 ' wise as my Rival ; and we bore such
 ' Hatred to one another, as might have
 ' transported us to the greatest Extre-
 ' mities ; but that I resolutely deter-
 ' min'd, one Day to discover my Senti-
 ' ments to *Madamoiselle de Messignac* ;
 ' but wanting Courage to speak to her
 ' myself, I wrote some Verses in a lit-
 ' tle Book, touching my Passion for her,
 ' and dexterously slid it into her Poc-
 ' ket, without her perceiving me. My
 ' Brother, who had always an Eye on
 ' me, observ'd it ; and playing with her,
 ' he took out the Verses, and found them
 ' to contain a respectful and passionate
 ' Declaration of Love to her : He kept
 ' them till Night, when, being withdrawn
 ' into my Chamber, with the greatest In-
 ' quietude, he came to me, and tenderly
 ' embracing me, he told me, he was hearti-
 ' ly glad at the Notice he had of my be-
 ' ing

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ing in love with Madamoiselle *de Mes-*
signac.

I remain'd as one thunder-struck ; I
saw my Papers in his Hand ; I imagin'd
she had made them a Sacrifice to him,
and that he came to insult on my Mis-
fortune. He saw in my Eyes and Coun-
tenance Part of what I thought. " Un-
deceive your self, continu'd he, she
gave 'em not to me ; I have taken 'em
without her seeing them : I'll be ser-
viceable to you for the obtaining her ;
be you the same to me in relation to
her elder Sister." I then embraced
him, and promised him all he desir'd.
Thus we mutually render'd good Offi-
ces to one another ; and our Mistresses,
who were not then acquainted with the
Power of Love, began to accustom them-
selves to hear talk of it.

It would be Abuse to your Patience,
to tell you, Madam, how we came at
length by our Cares and Assiduities to
win their Heats : What happy Moments !
what sweet Hours ! to see without ceas-
ing what one loves, and to be belov'd ! to
be together in the Fields, where an innocent
and Country Life lets one taste, without
Disturbance, the Pleasures of a growing
Passion : This is a Felicity which cannot
be express'd.

Winter

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‘ Winter being come, Madam *de Messignac* was at *Bordeaux*, where she had a House: We accompanied her thither; but this House was not large enough to lodge us with all the Family, we took one near her’s.

‘ Tho’ this Separation was only on Nights, yet we had lively Resentments of it: We were not now every Moment with them; our Visits were accompany’d with a certain Air of Ceremonies, which disturb’d us. But our Alarms were much increas’d, when we saw two rich handsome Sparks address themselves to Mademoiselles *de Messignac*, and earnestly court them, and that with the Approbation of their Parents. Good God! how we look’d! Their Proceedings went on at a great Rate; and our dear Mistresses, who shared in our Sorrow, mingled every Day their Tears with ours. In fine, having thoroughly tormented our selves, by devising a thousand fruitless Ways, I resolv’d to address myself to Monsieur *de Messignac*: I spoke to him, and told him what my Passion inspir’d me, to persuade him to defer these Marriages. He answer’d, he accepted, with the greatest Acknowledgments, the Offers my Brother and I made him; but being not of Age, what we might do at present, might be afterwards

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terwards cancell'd: That his Honour was dear to him, tho' his Estate was small; however, he should always esteem himself happy in living without Reproach: That my Uncle, who had entrusted us to him, might justly accuse him of seducing us; and that in short, we must no more think of these Matters.

' I withdrew in the greatest Affliction, which I shared with my Brother; and this was a dreadful Trouble among us. Monsieur *de Messignac*, to compleat our Misfortunes, sent an Account to my Uncle of what had pass'd, and earnestly intreated him to lay his Commands on us to be gone. He did so, and seeing no Remedy to our Misfortunes, we went, my Brother and I, to *Madamoiselles de Messignac*: We threw our selves at their Feet; we told them what might persuade Hearts already prepossess'd: We gave them our Faith and Promises, sign'd with our Blood. In short, Love made an End of vanquishing them; they consented to go with us. In fine, we took such Measures, that our Passage was happy enough, till our Arrival here, and it is not two Days since: entering this House, the first Person offering himself to us, was *Don Diego*; he was impatient of our Return; and to satisfy himself, he came in quest of us.

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‘ us. How did we look at this Sight !
 ‘ He caus’d us to be apprehended as Criminals ; and forgetting that Mademoiselles *de Messignac* were the Daughters of his best Friend, and Persons of Quality, he loaded them with Injuries, and overwhelm’d them with Threatnings, after he had learn’d from one of my Servants, that we had resolv’d to pass *incognito* as far as *Madrid*, to some Relations we had there, to tarry in this Place for a full Liberty of declaring our Marriage. He lock’d us up in a Chamber next to his ; and we were there, when these Ladies came, by Moon-light, coughing under our Windows. We heard them, and ran to them——They shew’d us their Letters ; and we were devising on our Deliverance, when my Uncle having Notice of what pass’d, silently came upon us with all his Servants, and before our Faces, misused the these amiable Creatures. In the Excess of our Dispair, our Strength without doubt increas’d. We broke open the Doors, which were fast shut on us, and we ran to succour them, when imprudently, Madam, we came into your Chamber.’

The Gentleman here stopp’d ; and I found he had related his little History with great Ingenuity. I thank’d him for it, and offer’d

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offer'd these Ladies my Endeavours, and those of my Friends, to appease their Family: Which Offers they accepted, and testify'd their Acknowledgments.

Some Ladies of the Town, who came to see me, would stop me: They propos'd to me to go to the Religioes, whose Convent is so pleasantly situated, that the Prospect has no Bounds: You may see thence, at the same Time, the Sea, Ships, Towns, Woods and Fields. They spake much in Praise of the Voices, Beauty, and Good Humour of these Religioes. Add to this, that the ill Weather was so increas'd, and the Snow fallen in so great Abundance, that no body advis'd me to proceed on my Journey. I was in suspense awhile; but the Impatience I had to be at *Madrid*, prevail'd over all these Considerations, and I parted the next Morning. I have receiv'd of my Banker the Money I wanted.

But I must not forget to tell you, that that the Inhabitants of this Town have a particular Privilege, and of which they are a little proud; which is, That when they treat of any Affairs with the King of *Spain*, and that it is directly with him, he is oblig'd to speak with them bare-headed. I could not get the Reason from them for this.

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I am told, I must furnish myself with good Store of Provision, to prevent starving in some Places thro' which we must pass. Gammons of Bacon, and dry'd Tongues, being much esteem'd in this Country, I have therefore taken up a good Quantity; and as to the rest, we have sufficiently provided. Now this being the Post Day, I would not omit this Occasion of informing you of what has happen'd to me; and testifying that I am

*From St. Sebastian,
Feb. 20. 1679.*

Yours.



L E T T E R II.

I Reassume, dear Cousin, without any Compliments, the Sequel of my Travels: In leaving *St. Sebastian*, we enter'd into a very rough Way, which brings you to such terrible steep Mountains, that you cannot ascend them without climbing; they are call'd *Sierra de St. Adrian*: They shew only Precipices and Rocks, on which a pulling Lover may meet with certain Death, if he has a Mind to it. Pine-Trees of an extraordinary Height, crown the Top of these Mountains. As far as the Sight will reach

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reach, you see nothing but Desarts, cut with Streams clearer than Chrystal. Near the highest Part of Mount *St. Adrian*, you meet with an elevated Rock, which seems to have been placed in the Midst of the Way to block up the Passage, and thus separate *Biscay* from the *Old Castile*.

A tedious and painful Labour has pierced this Mass of Stone in Manner of a Vault; you may walk forty or fifty Paces under it, without Sight of Day, but what comes by the Overtures at each Entry, which are shut by great Doors. You find under this Vault an Inn, which is left in the Winter by reason of the Snows: You see here likewise a little Chappel of *St. Adrian*, and several Caverns where Thieves commonly retreat; so that it is dangerous passing here without being in a Condition of Defence. When we had traversed the Rock, we still a little ascended to arrive to the Top of the Mountain, which is held to be the highest of the *Pyrenees*; it is wholly covered with great Ash-Trees. There was never a finer Place of Solitude; the Springs run here as in the Vallies: The Sight is only bounded by the Weakness of the Eyes; Shades and Silence here reign, and the Eccho's answer on every Side. We began afterwards to descend down faster than we climbed up: We saw in some Parts, little barren Plains, many sandy Places,

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Places, and ever and anon Mountains covered with great Rocks. It is not without Reason, that in passing so near, you fear lest some one of them should get loose, which would certainly overwhelm one ; for you see some which are fallen from the Top, and hang in their Passage on other Clefs ; and these finding nothing in the Way, would give a sorry Diversion to a Traveller. I made all these Reflections at my Ease ; for I was alone in my Litter, with my Child, who did not at all disturb my Thoughts. A River call'd *Urrola*, big enough, but which was increased by the Torrents and melted Snow, slides along the Way, and breaks forth into particular Streams in some Places, which fall with great Impetuosity and Noise, and make a very pleasant Sound and Sight.

We meet not here with those fine Castles to be seen on the Banks of the *Loire*, which make Travellers call it the Country of *Fairies*. Here are on these Mountains only some Shepherds Cottages, and some few Hovels, at that Distance, that you must go a great Way, before you can find them ; yet all these natural Objects, tho' very melancholy ones, have something that is very taking in them. The Snows were so high, that we had always twenty Men who made way for us with Shovels. You will, perhaps, imagine this cost me very much ;

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much ; but here are so well established Orders, and those so well observ'd, that the Inhabitants of a Village are oblig'd to meet Travellers, and be their Guides to the next ; and no one being bound to give them any Thing, the least Liberality therefore satisfies them. To this first Care, there is added another, which is that of ringing of Bells without ceasing, to give notice to Travellers where they may retreat in stormy Weather. They told me; there had not fallen these forty Years so much Snow as we had met with, there having been no Frost for a great while in this Province.

Our Troop was so great, that we might count our selves no ways inferiour to those famous Caravans which go to *Mecca* ; for, without reckoning my Train, and that of Don *Fernando de Toledo*, there join'd with us, near *St. Sebastian*, three Knights with their Attendants, who return'd from their Commanderships of *St. James* ; there were two of this Order, and one of that of *Alcantara* : The first wear red Crosses, in Form of an embroider'd Sword, on their Shoulders ; and he of *Alcantara*, had a green one. One of the two first is of *Andalusia*, the other of *Galicia*, and the third of *Catalonia* ; they are of good Families : He of *Andalusia*, calls himself Don *Esteve de Carvaial* ; he of *Galicia*, Don *Sancho Sanniento* ;

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niento; and the other of *Catalonia*, Don *Frederic de Cordonne*: They are Persons of good Mein, and well acquainted with the World. I received all possible Civilities from them, having much of the *French* Humour in them. They have travelled over the greatest Part of *Europe*; and this has render'd them so polite. We went to lie at *Galaretra*: This is a Borough a little distant from Mount *Adrian*, situate in the little Province of *Spain* I now mention'd, named *Alava*, which makes a Part of *Biscay*; we had there but bad Entertainment. They reckon it eleven Leagues from thence to *St. Sebastian*.

We had better Way from *Galareta* to *Victoria*, than we had before. The Country here yields much Corn and Grapes, and the Villages lie very thick together. We found here Custom-House Men, who made us pay both for the Cloaths and Money we carry'd with us: They were not very exacting with us, because our Company was too large to be imposed on. Don *Fernando de Toledo* had inform'd me over night, that we were to travel near the Castle of *Quebara*, which was said to be haunted with a Spirit; telling me a thousand extravagant Stories, which were readily swallow'd by the Inhabitants of the Country, and which were so effectually believed by them, that no body would live there.

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there. I had a great Desire to see this Place ; for, altho' I am naturally as fearful as another, yet am not afraid of Ghosts ; and if I were, our Company was so numerous, as would animate the greatest Coward. We struck off a little to the Left, and came to the Borough of *Quebara* : The Master of the Inn, where we enter'd, had the Keys of the Castle : He told us, in going along with us, that the *Duende*, which is to say, the Spirit, could not endure Company ; yet if we were a thousand together, he would, if he were minded, beat us all in such a Manner, as to leave us for dead. I began to tremble ; Don *Fernando de Toledo*, and Don *Frederic de Cardonne*, who gave me their Hands, perceiving my Fear, burst out into Laughter : I grew ashamed, and pretended to gain Courage ; and so we enter'd the Castle, which might have pass'd for a fine one, had it been kept in Order : It had no Furniture, except an old Tapestry Hanging in a great Hall, which represented the Amours of Don *Pedro the Cruel* and Donna *Maria de Padilla* : She is represented sitting like a Queen in the Midst of other Ladies, and the King placing on her Head a Crown of Flowers : In another Part, she sat under the Shade of a Wood, the King shewing her a Hawk on his Fist : And again, in another, she appears in a Warrior's Dress, and

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and the King, in Armour, presents her with a Sword ; which makes me believe that she hath been in some warlike Expedition with him. She was very ill represented ; and Don *Fernando* told me, he had seen her Effigies elsewhere, by which she appeared to be the most beautiful and most cruel Woman of her Time ; and that the Figures in this Tapestry resembled neither her, nor the King : His Name, Cypher, and Arms, were every where on it. We went up into a Tower, on the Top of which was a Dungeon ; and 'twas there the Spirit inhabited : But without doubt, he was abroad ; for we neither saw nor heard him, or any of his Companions. And having seen sufficiently this great Building, we left it to pursue our Journey. In approaching *Victoria*, we pass'd over a most delightful Plain, at the End of which, stands a Town, situated in this Province of *Spain*, I lately mention'd, called *Alava* : This is the capital Town of it, as well as the first of *Castile* : It is inclosed with two Walls, one of which is old, and the other new ; besides this, it has no other Fortifications. After I had refreshed myself awhile here, 'twas proposed to me to go to a Play ; but in tarrying till it began, I had no small Diversion in seeing come into the most spacious Place of the Town, four Companies

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panies of young Men, preceded by Drums and Trumpets; they march'd several times round, and immediately began a Fight with Snow-Balls, which they threw on one another with such Fierceness, that they were all very well pelted in the End: They were above two hundred who fought this Battle. To tell you of those who fell, or recover'd their Feet again, and the Shouts and Acclamations of the People, will be needless; and I was obliged to leave them thus engag'd, to go to the Place where the Play was to be represented.

When I entered into the Room, the People set forth an hollowing, *Mira, mira!* which is to say, Look, look! the Decoration of the Theatre was not over magnificent: It was rais'd on Barrels, and ill-rang'd Planks; the Windows of the Room were open, for they use no Candles or Flambeaux; whence you may easily imagine, this much takes away from the Beauty of the Sight. They acted the Life of *St. Anthony*; and when the Players said any Thing which pleas'd the Company, all the People cry'd out, *Victoria, Victoria*. I was inform'd, this was the Custom of the Country. I observ'd the Devil was no otherwise clad than the rest, having only a Pair of Stockings of a Flame-Colour, and a Pair of Horns to distinguish him. This Comedy

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dy consisted only of three Acts, and they are all no more : At the End of each serious Act, another began of Farce and Pleasantry ; wherein appear'd him they call'd *El Gracioso*, which is to say, the Buffoon, who, among much insipid Stuff, says sometimes something that is less nauseous : The Interludes were mix'd with Dances, to the Sound of the Harps and Guittars : The Actors had Castanets, and a little Hat on their Heads, without which they never dance, and then 'tis a Saraband ; they seem not to walk, they slip along so lightly. Their Manner is wholly different from ours : They move too much their Arms, and often pass their Hands on their Hats and Faces, and that with no ill Grace ; they play admirably well on the Castanets.

As to the rest (dear Cousin) I would not have you think these Actors, for being in a little City, do much differ from those of *Madrid*. I was told, that those of the King are a little better : But in a Word, both act what they call *Las Comedias Famosas*, which is to say, the finest and most famous Comedies ; which in truth are very ridiculous : For Example ; when St. *Anthony* said his *Confiteor*, which he did often enough, all the Spectators fell down on their Knees, and gave themselves such rude *Mea Culpa's*, as was enough to beat the Breath out of their Bodies.

Here

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Here would be a proper Place to speak of their Habits, but you had better excuse me till I come to *Madrid*, lest I tire you with Repetitions: Yet I must tell you, that the Ladies I saw in this Company, had a prodigious Quantity of Red, which begins just under the Eye, and passes from the Chin to the Ears, and from their Shoulders to their Hands; so that I never saw any Radishes of a finer Colour.

The Lady Governess of the Town drew near to me: She just touch'd my Cloaths, and hastily drew back her Hand, as if she had burnt her Fingers. I bid her in *Spanish*, not to be afraid: She at length familiariz'd herself, and told me, 'twas not thro' Fear of any Thing else, but of displeasing me; that 'twas no new Thing to her to see *French* Ladies; and that if she might, she would gladly dress herself after their Fashion. She order'd Chocolate to be brought her, with which she presented me; which is far better here than in *France*. The Play being ended, I took my leave of her, having thank'd her for her Civilities.

The next Morning as I enter'd the Church to hear Mass, I espy'd an Hermit, who had the Air of a Person of Quality, and yet begg'd an Alms of me, with such great Humility, that I was greatly surpriz'd at it. Don *Fernando* having notice of it, drew

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near, and said to me, ' The Person whom
' you behold, Madam, is of an illustrious
' Family, and of great Merit, but his For-
' tune very unhappy.

' You raise in me, said I to him, a great
' Curiosity to know more ; and therefore I
' must beg your Favour to satisfy it. You
' may command any Thing of me, reply'd
' he, Madam ; but I am not so through-
' ly inform'd of his Adventures, to under-
' take the relating them to you ; and I be-
' lieve 'twere better I engage him into a
' Recital of them himself.' He left me,
and went immediately to embrace him, with
the greatest Civilities and Tenderneſs. Don
Frederic de Cardonne, and Don *Esteve de*
Carvaial, had already accosted him as their
old Acquaintance : And when Don *Fernan-*
do had join'd them, they all earnestly in-
treated him to come with them when Mass
was over. He as earnestly excused himself ;
but being told I was a Stranger, and much
importun'd, that I might learn from him-
self, what had obliged him to turn Her-
mit, he at length consented, on Condition
I would permit him to bring one of his
Friends, who was perfectly knowing in what
related to him : ' Do us Justice, continu'd
' he, and judge whether 'tis fit for me to
' relate such Particularities in this Habit I
' wear.' They found he had Reason, and
pray'd him to bring his Friend ; which he
did

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did awhile after I was at my Lodgings: He presented a very fine Cavalier to me; and taking leave of us very civilly, he told him, 'He should be obliged to him, 'if he would satisfy the Curiosity which 'Don *Fernando de Toledo* had given me of 'knowing the Spring of his Misfortunes.' This Gentleman took Place by me, and began in these Terms:

'I think myself very happy, Madam, 'that my Friend has chosen me to satisfy 'the Desire you have of knowing his Adventures, but I fear I shall not acquit myself so well as I would: The Person 'whose History you would learn, has been 'one of the finest Gentlemen in the World; 'it would be hard to make a Judgment of 'him now; he is buried, as it were, in 'his Hermit's Habit: He was an exceeding graceful Person, well shaped, of an 'excellent Mein, and noble Air: And in 'fine, had all the Accomplishments, both 'natural and acquir'd, of a Person of 'Quality; being liberal, witty and brave. 'He was born at *Cagliari*, Capital of the 'Isle of *Sardinia*, of one of the most illustrious and richest Families of all that 'Country.

'He was brought up with one of his 'Cousin-Germans; and the Sympathy 'which was found in their Humours and 'Inclinations, was so great, that they

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‘ were more strictly united by Friendship
 ‘ than Blood. They hid no Secret from
 ‘ each other : And when the Marquis *Bar-*
 ‘ *baran* was married (which was his Cousin’s
 ‘ Name) their Friendship continu’d in the
 ‘ same Force.

‘ He marry’d one of the finest Women
 ‘ in the World, and the most accomplish’d ;
 ‘ she was not then above Fourteen : She
 ‘ was Heiress to a very noble Estate and
 ‘ Family. The Marquis every Day dis-
 ‘ covered new Charms in the Wit and
 ‘ Person of his Wife, which likewise in-
 ‘ creased every Day his Passion. He speaks,
 ‘ without ceasing, of his Happiness, to
 ‘ Don *Lewis de Barbaran*, which is the
 ‘ Name, Madam, of my Friend ; and
 ‘ when any Affairs obliged the Marquis
 ‘ to leave her, he conjured him to stay with
 ‘ the Marchioness, thereby to lessen the
 ‘ Trouble of his Absence. But, alas ! how
 ‘ hard is it, when one is at an Age unca-
 ‘ pable of serious Reflections, to see conti-
 ‘ nually so fair a Woman, so young and
 ‘ amiable, and to see her with Indiffe-
 ‘ rence ! Don *Lewis* was already despe-
 ‘ rately in love with the Marchioness, and
 ‘ thought then, ’twas only for her Hus-
 ‘ band’s sake : Whilst he was in this Mis-
 ‘ take, she fell dangerously sick ; at which
 ‘ he grew so dreadful melancholy, that he
 ‘ then knew, but too late, this was caus’d
 ‘ by

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by a Passion, which would prove the greatest Misfortune of his whole Life. Finding himself then in this Condition, and having not Strength to resist it, he resolved to use the utmost Extremity, and to fly and avoid a Place where he was in danger of dying with Love, or breaking thro' the Bonds of Friendship. The most cruel Death would have seem'd gentler than the Execution of this Design: When the Marchioness beginning to grow better, he went to her to bid her adieu, and see her no more.

He found her busied in chusing, among several Stones of great Price, those which were the finest; which she intended to set in a Ring. Don *Lewis* was scarce enter'd the Chamber, but she desired him, with that Air of Familiarity usual among Relations, to go and fetch her other Stones, which she had in her Cabinet. He ran thither, and by an unexpected good Hap, found, among what he look'd for, the Picture enamell'd of the Marchioness in Miniature, set with Diamonds, and incircled with a Lock of her Hair; it was so like, that he had not the Power to withstand the Desire he had of stealing it. "I am going to leave her, said he, I shall see her no more; I sacrifice all my Quiet to her Husband: Alas! is not this enough?"

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“ And I may not, without a Crime,
 “ search in my Pain a Consolation so in-
 “ nocent as this!” “ He kiss’d several
 “ Times this Picture; he put it under his
 “ Arm; he carefully hid it, and returning
 “ towards her with these Stones, he trem-
 “ bling, told her the Resolution he had
 “ taken of travelling. She appeared much
 “ amaz’d at it, and chang’d her Colour.
 “ He look’d on her at this Moment; he
 “ had the Pleasure of perceiving it; and
 “ their Eyes being of Intelligence, spake
 “ more than their Words; “ Alas! What
 “ can oblige you, Don *Lewis*, said she to
 “ him, to leave us? Your Cousin loves
 “ you so tenderly; I esteem you; we are
 “ never pleas’d without you; he cannot
 “ live from you: Have you not already
 “ travelled? You have without doubt
 “ some other Reason for your Departure;
 “ but, at least, do not hide it from me.”
 “ Don *Lewis* pierc’d thro’ with Sorrow,
 “ could not forbear uttering a deep Sigh;
 “ and taking one of the delicate Hands of
 “ the charming Person, on which he fix’d
 “ his Mouth: “ Ah! Madam, what do
 “ you ask me! said he to her: What can
 “ I say to you! And, indeed, what can I
 “ say to you in the Condition I am in!”
 “ The Violence he used to conceal his
 “ Sentiments, caus’d him such a great
 “ Weakness, that he fell half dead at her
 “ Feet.

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Feet. She remained troubled and confus'd at this Sight: She oblig'd him to sit down by her; she dared not lift up her Eyes to look on him; but she let him see Tears, which she could not forbear shedding, nor resolve to conceal from him.

Scarcely were they come to themselves, when the Marquis enter'd into the Chamber. He came to embrace Don Lewis with all the Testimonies of a perfect Friendship, and he was in the greatest Trouble, when he understood he was to depart for *Naples*. He omitted no Arguments to persuade him from it, press'd his Stay with the greatest Earnestness, but all in vain. He there immediately took his Leave of the Marchioness, and saw her no more. The Marquis went out with him, he left him not till the Moment of his Departure. This was an Augmentation of Don Lewis's Sorrow; he would have willingly remained alone, to have an entire Liberty of afflicting himself.

The Marchioness was sensibly afflicted at this Separation: She had perceived he loved her, before he had known thus much himself; and she had found in him such singular Merit, that for her Part too, she had loved him without knowing it; but she found this to

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‘ her Cost after his Departure : Recover-
 ‘ ing but lately from a dangerous Sick-
 ‘ ness, of which she was not perfectly cu-
 ‘ red, this unhappy Accident made her
 ‘ fall into such a languishing Indisposition,
 ‘ as soon render’d her quite another Body.
 ‘ Her Duty, her Reason, her Virtue,
 ‘ equally persecuted her : She was great-
 ‘ ly sensible of her Husband’s Respects to
 ‘ her, and she could not suffer but with
 ‘ great Sorrow, that another should take
 ‘ up her Thoughts, and have so great a
 ‘ Place in her Affections. She dared not
 ‘ any more mention the Name of Don
 ‘ Lewis ; she never made any Enquiries af-
 ‘ ter him ; she made it an indispensable
 ‘ Duty to forget him : This Violence
 ‘ which she used on herself, was like a
 ‘ continual Martyrdom ; she made one of
 ‘ her Women, in whom she most confided
 ‘ the Repository of this Secret.’ “ Am
 “ I not very unhappy ? said she ; I must
 “ wish never again to see a Man, towards
 “ whom it is impossible for me to be in
 “ a State of Indifference ; his Person is
 “ always before my Eyes, nay, I think
 “ sometimes I see him in the Person of
 “ my Husband ; the Resemblance which
 “ is between them, serves only to nou-
 “ rish my Affection towards him. Alas ?
 “ Mariana, I must die, to expiate this
 “ Crime, although it be an involuntary
 “ one :

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“ one: I have only these Means to get
“ rid of a Passion, of which I cannot hi-
“ therto be Mistress: Alas! what have
“ I not done to stifle this Passion, which
“ is yet dear to me?” “ She accompa-
“ ny’d these Words with a thousand Sighs:
“ She melted into Tears; and tho’ this
“ Woman had a great deal of Wit and Af-
“ fection to her Mistress, yet she could
“ say nothing to her could yield her any
“ Comfort.

“ The Marquis, in the mean time,
“ every Day reproach’d his Wife with her
“ Indifferency to Don *Lewis*:” “ I can-
“ not suffer, said he to her, that you should
“ think so little on the Man I love a-
“ bove all the World, and who had so
“ much Complaisance and Friendship for
“ you: I must needs say, this is a Kind
“ of Hardness, which would make one
“ judge untowardly of the Tenderness of
“ your Heart: At least you must grant,
“ Madam, that he was scarcely gone,
“ but you forgot him. What Good would
“ my remembering him do him? said the
“ Marchioness with a languishing Air;
“ Do you not see he avoids us? Would
“ he not have been still with us, if he
“ had any real Kindness for us? Believe
“ me, my Lord, he deserves a little that
“ we should forsake him in our Turn.”
“ Whatever she could say, repell’d not the
Mar-

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‘ Marquifs ; he ftill importun’d her to write
 ‘ to Don *Lewis* to return. One Day among
 ‘ the reft, when ſhe was gotten into his Clo-
 ‘ ſet to ſpeak to him about ſome Affairs,
 ‘ ſhe found him buſied in reading a Let-
 ‘ ter of Don *Lewis*, which he lately re-
 ‘ ceiv’d.

‘ She would have retir’d ; but he took
 ‘ this Opportunity to oblige her to do
 ‘ what he would have her. He told her
 ‘ very ſeriouſly, That he could no longer
 ‘ bear the Abſence of his Couſin ; that he
 ‘ he was reſolved to go and find him ; that
 ‘ ’twas already two Years ſince he had been
 ‘ gone, without intimating any Deſire of
 ‘ returning to his Friends and Country ;
 ‘ that he was perſuaded he would yield a
 ‘ greater Deference to her Requeſts than
 ‘ his ; that he conjured her to write to him :
 ‘ And that in fine, ſhe might chuſe either
 ‘ to give him this Satisfaction, or be con-
 ‘ tent to ſee him depart for *Naples*, where
 ‘ Don *Lewis* was to make ſome ſtay. She
 ‘ remained ſurpriz’d and perplex’d at this
 ‘ Propoſal ; but knowing he expected with
 ‘ great Impatience her Determination,
 “ What would you have me ſay to him,
 “ my Lord ? ſaid ſhe to him with a ſor-
 “ rowful Countenance : Dictate this Let-
 “ ter to me, I will write it ; I can do no
 ‘ more ; and I believe this is more than
 “ I ought.” ‘ The Marquifs tranſported
 ‘ with

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‘ with Joy, most affectionately embraced
‘ her, and thank’d her for her Compliance,
‘ and made her write these Words:

“ IF you have any Kindness for us, defer
“ not your Return; I have very ur-
“ gent Reasons to desire it. I am not a lit-
“ tle concern’d that you shew such an In-
“ difference towards us, which is an unques-
“ tionable Indication that you take no De-
“ light in our Company. Return, Don
“ Lewis, I earnestly wish it; I entreat you:
“ And if it were fit for me to use more ur-
“ gent Terms, I would say perhaps, I com-
“ mand you to do it.”

‘ The Marquiss made a single Pacquet
‘ of this fatal Letter, to the end Don
‘ Lewis might not think ’twas by his Or-
‘ der the Marchioness had wrote it; and
‘ having sent it to the Carrier, he expect-
‘ ed the Success with extraordinary Im-
‘ patience. What became of this Lover
‘ at the Sight of so dear and unexpected
‘ an Order! Altho’ he had remark’d Dis-
‘ positions of Tenderness in the Counte-
‘ nance of this fair Person, yet he dared
‘ not promise himself she could desire his
‘ Return; his Reason revolted against his
‘ Joy.’ “ How unhappy a Wretch am I!
“ said he; I adore the most amiable of all
‘ Women, and yet I dare not offer to
“ please

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“ please her. She has a Kindness for me,
“ yet Honour and Friendship withhold me
“ from making the least Advantage of it.
“ What shall I do then, O Heavens! What
“ shall I do! I flatter’d myself, that Ab-
“ sence would cure me: Alas! this is a
“ Remedy which I have fruitlessly tried: I
“ have never cast mine Eyes on her Pic-
“ ture, but have found myself more in
“ love, and more miserable than when I
“ saw her every Day. I must obey her,
“ she commands my Return, she desires
“ to see me, and she cannot be ignorant of
“ my Passion. When I took my leave of
“ her, my Eyes declared to her the Secret
“ of my Heart: And when I call to mind
“ what I saw in her’s, all my Reflections
“ then are to no purpose; for I resolve ra-
“ ther to die at her Feet, than to live re-
“ mote from her.”

‘ He parted without any Delay, and
‘ without taking leave of his Friends. He
‘ left a Gentleman to excuse him towards
‘ them, and to order his Affairs. He was
‘ in such great Hasten to see the Marchio-
‘ ness, that he used such Diligence to be with
‘ her, as no body but he could have done:
‘ Arriving at *Cagliari*, Capital of *Sar-*
‘ *dinia*, he understood that the Marquis
‘ and his Wife were at a stately Country-
‘ House, where the Vice-Roy was gone to
‘ give them a Visit, with all his Court.
‘ He

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‘ He learn’d moreover, that the Marquis
‘ *de Barbaran* prepared for him a great Feast,
‘ where there were to be held Juſts or Tour-
‘ naments, after the ancient Manner of the
‘ *Moors*: He was the Defendant; and was
‘ to maintain, That a Husband belov’d is
‘ happier than a Lover.

‘ Several Gentlemen, that were not of
‘ this Opinion, were preparing themselves
‘ to go and diſpute the Prize, which the
‘ Marchionefs, at the Vice-Queen’s Entrea-
‘ ty, was to give to the Conqueror: ’Twas
‘ a Scarf, embroider’d with her own Hands,
‘ wrought with Cyphers: No one was to
‘ appear but mask’d and diſguiſed, to the
‘ End all might be freer and more gal-
‘ lant.

‘ Don *Lewis* had a ſecret Deſpite, in
‘ finding the Marquis ſo well ſatiſfied.”
“ He is belov’d, ſaid he; I cannot but
“ look on him as my Rival, and as
“ an happy Rival: But we muſt endea-
“ vour to diſturb his Happineſs, in tri-
“ umphing over his Vain-glory.” ‘ Ha-
‘ ving form’d this Deſign, he would not
‘ appear in Town; he cauſed to be made
‘ a Suit of ſtrip’d green Sattin, embroide-
‘ red with Gold, and all his Liveries were
‘ of the ſame Colour, to denote his new
‘ Hopes.

‘ When he enter’d into the Liſts, every
‘ body had their Eyes on him; his Mag-
‘ nificence

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' nificance, and his Air gave Emulation
 ' to the Cavaliers, and great Curiosity to
 ' the Ladies. The Marchioness felt a se-
 ' cret Emotion, of which she could not dis-
 ' cover the Cause: He was placed very
 ' near the Balcony, where she sat with
 ' the Vice-Queen; but there was no La-
 ' dy there which did not lose all her
 ' Lustre near that of the Marchioness :
 ' Her youthful Air, which exceeded not
 ' eighteen Years; her lovely white and red
 ' Cheeks, her Eyes so sweet and graceful,
 ' her scarlet and little Mouth, agreeable
 ' Smile, and her Shape, which surpass'd
 ' the Fairest, made her the Admiration
 ' of all the World.

' Don *Lewis* was so ravish'd in seeing
 ' her so charming, and to observe yet in
 ' her Countenance a languishing sorrow-
 ' ful Air, that he flatter'd himself to have
 ' therein a Part: And this was the first
 ' Moment wherein he thought himself
 ' happy. When his Turn came, he ran
 ' against the Marquis, and smote him so
 ' dexterously, that he got the Advantage all
 ' along of him: So that, in a Word, he
 ' gain'd the Prize with a general Ap-
 ' plause, and with every one's Good-liking.
 ' He threw himself at the Marchioness's
 ' Feet, to receive it at her Hands; he al-
 ' tered the Tone of his Voice, and speak-
 ' ing to her with his Mask on, low enough
 ' not

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‘ not to be heard but only by her:’ “ Divine Person, said he to her, be pleased to
“ to observe what Fortune decides in Favour of Lovers.” ‘ He dar’d not to say
‘ more to her : And without knowing him,
‘ she gave him the Prize, with the natural
‘ Grace with which all her Actions were
‘ accompany’d.

‘ He suddenly withdrew himself for
‘ fear of being known; for this might
‘ have been an Occasion of Quarrel between the Marquiss and him : And without doubt he would not have easily pardon’d the Victory he obtain’d over him. This obliged him to keep himself still concealed for some Days. The
‘ Vice-Roy and his Lady return’d to *Cagliari*, and the Marquiss and Marchioness
‘ accompany’d them thither, with the whole
‘ Court.

‘ Don *Lewis* then shew’d himself; he pretended he just then arrived, and made as if he knew not what had pass’d in the Field. The Marquiss *de Barbaran*
‘ was transported with Joy in seeing him; and Absence had not at all altered the
‘ Affection he had for this dear Relation.

‘ He had no difficult Task to find a favourable Moment wherein to entertain his amiable Marchioness; he had as much Liberty in their Lodgings as in his own : And you may well judge, Madam,
‘ that

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' that he forgot not to mention the Prize
 ' he had received from her fair Hands :'
 " How wretched am I, said he to her,
 " that you did not know me ? Alas ! Ma-
 " dam, I flatter'd myself, that by some
 " secret Presentments, you would learn
 " that no one but I, could sustain with
 " such Passion the Cause of Lovers against
 " Husbands. No, my Lord, said she to
 " to him, with an angry and disdainful
 " Air, to take away all Hope from him,
 " I could never have imagin'd that you
 " could have been the Patron of so foul
 " a Cause ; and I could not have believ'd
 " you could have taken such strong En-
 " gagements at *Naples*, that you should
 " come as far as *Sardinia* to triumph over
 " a Friend who maintained my Interests
 " as well as his own. I shall die with
 " Regret, Madam, said Don *Lewis*, if I
 " have displeased you in what I have done ;
 " and were you more favourably disposed,
 " and I might dare to make you my Con-
 " fident, it would be no hard Matter for
 " me to persuade you, that 'tis not at
 " *Naples* I have left the Object of my
 " Vows."

' The Marchioness apprehending lest
 ' he should speak more than she was wil-
 ' ling to hear, and appear lively touch'd
 ' with the Reproach she made him, she
 ' put on a more pleasing Countenance ;
 ' and

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and turning the Conversation into a Tone of Raillery, answer'd him, He took too seriously what she had said to him. He dared not make use of this Occasion to declare his Love to her; for tho' he lov'd her above all Things, yet he respected her no less.

When he had left her, he began to blame himself for his Fearfulness: "Shall I, said he, always suffer without seeking a Remedy?" It was some Time before he could meet with a favourable Occasion, because the Marchioness studiously avoided him; but being come one Night where she was, he found her alone in an inward Room, lying on a Bed, in a most lovely Manner, and most becoming Undress, her Hair being fasten'd with Knots of Diamonds, hung carelessly about her Breasts: The Trouble she felt in seeing Don *Lewis*, appeared in her Countenance, and render'd her yet more lovely. He drew near her with an awful and respectful Air, and fell down on his Knees by her: He look'd on her for some Time, not daring to speak; but becoming a little more bold: "If you consider, Madam, said he to her, the piteous Condition whereunto you have reduced me, you will easily comprehend that 'tis no longer in my Power to keep Silence. I could not avoid such inevitable

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“ ble Strokes as you have given me. I
 “ adored you as soon as I saw you; I
 “ have endeavour’d to cure myself in fly-
 “ ing from you; I have offer’d the greatest
 “ Violence to myself in endeavouring to
 “ master my Passion. You have recalled
 “ me, Madam, from my voluntary Exile,
 “ and I die a thousand times a Day; un-
 “ certain of my Destiny. If you be cruel
 “ enough to refuse me your Pity, suffer at
 “ least, that having made known to you
 “ my Passion, I may die with Grief at
 “ your Feet.” ‘ The Marchioness was
 ‘ some Time without resolving to answer
 ‘ him; but at length gaining Assurance,
 “ I acknowledge, said she, Don *Lewis*,
 “ that I am not wholly ignorant of one
 “ Part of your Sentiments, but I was
 “ willing to persuade myself ’twas the
 “ Effects of an innocent Affection. Make
 “ me not a Partner of your Crime;
 “ you commit one when you betray the
 “ Friendship due to my Husband. But,
 “ Alas! you will pay too dearly for this;
 “ for I know that Duty forbids you to love
 “ me; and in respect it does not only forbid
 “ me to love you, but to fly from you: I
 “ will do it, Don *Lewis*, I will avoid you;
 “ and I don’t know whether I ought not
 “ to hate you: But, alas! it seems impossi-
 “ ble for me to do it. What do you then,
 “ Madam, answered he, interrupting her,
 “ being

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“ being full of Grief and Despair, when
“ you pronounce the Sentence of my
“ Death? You cannot hate me, say you :
“ Do you not hate me, and do you not do
“ me all the Mischief you are able, when
“ you resolve to avoid me? Make an end,
“ Madam, make an end; leave not your
“ Vengeance imperfect; sacrifice me to your
“ Duty and your Husband; for my Life
“ cannot but be odious, if you take from
“ me the Hopes of pleasing you.” She
“ look’d on him at this Instant with Eyes
“ full of Languishing.” “ Don *Lewis*, said
“ she to him, you reproach me with what
“ I would deserve.” “ In ending these
“ Words, she arose, fearing greatly lest her
“ Affection should triumph over her Reason;
“ and notwithstanding his Endeavours
“ to withhold her, she pass’d into a Chamber
“ where her Women were.
“ She thought she had gain’d much on
“ herself in forcing her Way out of this
“ Conversation, without answering so favourably
“ as her Heart could have wish’d; but Love is a
“ Seducer, which must not be in any sort hearken’d
“ to, if one will not be totally overcome by him.
“ From that Day, Don *Lewis* began to think
“ himself happy, tho’ he wanted many Things
“ to compleat his Felicity. The Marchioness, in Effect,
“ had a Principle
“ of

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‘ of Virtue, which opposed itself always
 ‘ with Success to the Desires of her Lover.

‘ He had no longer those Scruples of
 ‘ Friendship for the Marquis *de Barbaran*,
 ‘ which had so greatly disturb’d his Mind:
 ‘ Love had perfectly banish’d Friendship;
 ‘ nay, he even secretly hated him.

‘ In fine, Don *Lewis* flattering himself,
 ‘ that perhaps he might find a favourable
 ‘ Moment to affect the Marchioness’s
 ‘ Heart with some Pity, he carefully sought
 ‘ it: And to find it, one Day when it
 ‘ was very hot, knowing that the Mar-
 ‘ chioness was wont to retire to repose her
 ‘ self after Dinner, as it is customary in
 ‘ that Country, he came to her, doubting
 ‘ not but every body was asleep in the
 ‘ House.

‘ She was in a Ground-Room which
 ‘ look’d into the Garden: All was fast
 ‘ and shut close save a little Window,
 ‘ whereby he saw on her Bed this charm-
 ‘ ing Creature. She was in a profound
 ‘ Sleep, half undress’d: He had the Time
 ‘ to discover such Beauties, as still aug-
 ‘ mented the Force of his Passion. He
 ‘ approach’d so softly to her, that she did
 ‘ not awake. It was already some Mo-
 ‘ ments that he had look’d on her with
 ‘ all the Transports of a Man amaz’d,
 ‘ when seeing her naked Breasts, he could
 ‘ not forbear kissing them. She arose on

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‘ a sudden, she had not her Eyes open ;
‘ the Chamber was dark, and she could
‘ never have believ’d Don *Lewis* could
‘ have been so bold. I have already told
‘ you, Madam, that he resembled the
‘ Marquiss *de Barbaran*. She did not doubt
‘ then but it was he, and calling him se-
‘ veral Times he dear Marquiss and Hus-
‘ band, she tenderly embraced him. He
‘ well knew his Error ; whatever Plea-
‘ sure it procur’d him, he could have wish-
‘ ed to have owed this only to his Mis-
‘ tress’s Favours. But, O Heavens ! how
‘ unfortunately it happen’d ! The Marquiss
‘ came in this dangerous Moment, and
‘ ’twas not without the greatest Fury he
‘ saw the Liberty Don *Lewis* took with
‘ his Wife. At the Noise he had made
‘ in entring, she turn’d her Eyes towards
‘ the Door ; and seeing her Husband
‘ enter, whom she thought she had al-
‘ ready in her Arms, it is impossible to
‘ represent her Affliction and Astonish-
‘ ment.

‘ Don *Lewis* amaz’d at this Accident,
‘ flatter’d himself, that perhaps he was not
‘ known : He pass’d immediately into
‘ the Gallery, and finding a Window was
‘ open’d into the Garden, he threw himself
‘ out of it, and immediately pass’d thro’
‘ a Back-Door. The Marquiss pursu’d
‘ him, without being able to overtake
‘ him.

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‘ him. In returning the same Way he came,
 ‘ he unhappily found the Marchioness’s
 ‘ Picture, which Don *Lewis* had dropp’d
 ‘ as he ran. He immediately made most
 ‘ cruel Reflections hereupon. This Picture
 ‘ of his Wife, which Don *Lewis* had let
 ‘ fall, and the Sight of her embracing him,
 ‘ made him no longer doubt of his Wife’s
 ‘ Falshood.’ “ I am betray’d, cry’d he,
 ‘ by her whom I lov’d dearer than my
 ‘ own Life. Was there ever a more un-
 ‘ happy Man in the World?” In end-
 ‘ ing these Words, he return’d to his
 ‘ Wife’s Chamber. She immediately threw
 ‘ herself at his Feet, and melting into
 ‘ Tears, would have justify’d herself, and
 ‘ made known to him her Innocency: But
 ‘ the Spirit of Jealousy had so fully pos-
 ‘ sess’d him, that he violently repress’d
 ‘ her. He hearken’d only to the Trans-
 ‘ port of his Rage and Despair, and turn-
 ‘ ing away his Eyes, that he might not see
 ‘ so lovely an Object, he had the Barbarity
 ‘ to strike his Dagger into the Breast of the
 ‘ most beautiful and most virtuous Woman
 ‘ in the World. She offer’d herself to
 ‘ be slaughter’d as an innocent Sacrifice,
 ‘ and her Soul issued out in a Stream of
 ‘ Blood.

‘ O God! cry’d I, O imprudent Don
 ‘ *Lewis*! why did you leave this charm-
 ‘ ing Lady to the Fury of an amorous
 ‘ Husband,

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‘ Husband, transported with Jealousy?
‘ You might have snatch’d her out of his
‘ cruel Hands. Alas! Madam, reply’d
‘ this Gentleman, he knew not what he did;
‘ for what would he not have done at ano-
‘ ther Time, to have prevented such a Mis-
‘ fortune?

‘ As soon as the unfortunate Marchio-
‘ ness had render’d her last Breath, her
‘ cruel Executioner shut her Apartment,
‘ took all the Money and Jewels he had,
‘ mounted on horseback, and fled with all
‘ the Speed he could. Don *Lewis*, rest-
‘ less, and more amorous than ever, re-
‘ turn’d thither in the Evening, notwith-
‘ standing whatever might befall him. He
‘ was surpriz’d, when he was told the Mar-
‘ chioness was still asleep; he immediately
‘ went into the Garden, and enter’d into
‘ the Gallery thro’ the same Window
‘ which he had found open, and from
‘ thence came into the Chamber. ’Twas
‘ so dark, that he was fain to walk warily;
‘ when he felt something which had like
‘ to have made him fall: He stoop’d down,
‘ and found it was a dead Body; he utter-
‘ ed a great Shriek, and doubting not but
‘ ’twas that of his dear Mistress, he sunk
‘ down with Grief. Some of the Mar-
‘ chioness’s Women walking under the
‘ Windows of her Apartment, heard Don
‘ *Lewis*’s Cries; they easily got up thro’

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“ the same Window, and enter'd the Room
 “ What a sad Spectacle! what a lamenta-
 “ ble Sight was this! I cannot find Words
 “ to denote to you the Horror of this
 “ Spectacle! Don *Lewis* was no sooner
 “ come to himself, by the Force of Re-
 “ medies, but his Grief, Rage and Des-
 “ pair, broke out with such Violence, that
 “ it was impossible to calm him; and I am
 “ perswaded he had not outliv'd her whose
 “ Loss he had occasion'd, if the De-
 “ sire of Vengeance had not re-animated
 “ him.

“ He parted like one furious, in search
 “ of the Marquis *de Barbaran*; he sought
 “ him every where without hearing any
 “ News of him; he ran over *Italy*, tra-
 “ vers'd *Germany*, came into *Flanders*, and
 “ pass'd into *France*. He was told, that
 “ the Marquis was at *Valencia* in *Spain*;
 “ he came there, and met not with him. In
 “ fine, three Years being past, without
 “ finding the Means of sacrificing his Ene-
 “ my to his Mistress's Ghost, Divine
 “ Grace, which is irresistible, and parti-
 “ cularly on great Souls, touch'd his so ef-
 “ ficaciously, that he immediately changed
 “ his Desire of Revenge into serious De-
 “ sires of leaving the World, and mind-
 “ ed only the fitting himself for another
 “ Life.

“ Being

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‘ Being fill’d with this Spirit, he return’d
‘ into *Sardinia*. He sold all his Estate ;
‘ which he distributed among some of his
‘ Friends, who, with great Merit, were yet
‘ very poor ; and by this Means, became so
‘ poor himself, that he was reduced to the
‘ Begging of Alms.

‘ He had heretofore seen, in going to
‘ *Madrid*, a Place very fit to make an
‘ Hermitage ; it is towards *Mount Dra-*
‘ *gon*. This Mountain is almost inaccessi-
‘ ble ; and you cannot pass to it but thro’
‘ an Overture, which is in the Midst of a
‘ great Rock : It is stopp’d up when the
‘ Snow falls, and the Hermitage lies bu-
‘ ry’d more than six Months under it. Don
‘ *Lewis* made one to be built here, where
‘ he was wont to pass whole Years with-
‘ out seeing any one. He made such Pro-
‘ visions as were necessary, having good
‘ Books ; and thus remain’d in this dismal
‘ Solitude : But this Year his Friends for-
‘ ced him hither, by reason of a great Sick-
‘ ness, which had like to have cost him his
‘ Life. It is four Years since he has led
‘ this holy spiritual Life, and it is so diffe-
‘ rent from that to which he was born, that
‘ it is with great Trouble he sees any of his
‘ Acquaintance.

‘ As to the Marquis *de Barbaran*, he
‘ has wholly left the Isle of *Sardinia*,
‘ where he has not the Liberty to re-

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‘ turn. I am inform’d he marry’d a-
 ‘ gain at *Anvers*, to a Widow of a *Spaniard*, named *Foncea*. And it is he
 ‘ himself, that has related to one of my
 ‘ Friends the Particularities of his Crime;
 ‘ and he is so furiously tortur’d with the
 ‘ Remembrance of it, that he imagines
 ‘ he continually sees his Wife dying, and
 ‘ reproaching him with his Fury and
 ‘ Jealousy. In a Word, he has contracted
 ‘ such a deep Melancholy, and his
 ‘ Death is thought by every one to be
 ‘ near, or at least, the Loss of his
 ‘ Senses.

The Gentleman here was silent; and I
 not being able to forbear weeping at so
 tragical a Relation, Don *Fernando de*
Toledo, who had observed it, and would
 not take notice of it for fear of inter-
 rupting the Relation, rally’d me about
 my Tenderness, telling me how well he
 was pleased to find me so compassionate,
 and that I should not be long before I
 met with Objects fit to exercise it on.
 I did not so much mind the returning an
 Answer to him, as the thanking this Gen-
 tleman, who was pleased to entertain me
 with the Recital of so extraordinary an
 Adventure: I entreated him to make my
 Compliments to Don *Lewis*, and to give
 him from me two Pistoles, seeing he liv’d
 on

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on Alms. Don *Fernando*, and each of the Cavaliers gave as much : ‘ Here is, said the Gentleman to us, wherewith to enrich the Poor of *Victoria* ; for Don *Lewis* appropriates not such great Charities as these to himself.’ We told him, he was the Master, and might dispose of the Money as he pleas’d. But to return to my Adventures.

Altho’ I had a Passport from the King of *Spain*, the best specify’d, and most general as is possible, yet I was obliged to take a Billet from the Toll-house ; for, without this Precaution, all my Cloaths had been confiscated. *To what Purpose then is my Passport ?* said I to them. *To none at all,* reply’d they ; *the Surveyors and Officers of the Customs would not so much as cast their Eyes on it.* They told me, the King must come and assure them, that this Order was from him. It is to no Purpose for any one to alledge his being a Stranger, and ignorant of the Usages of the Country ; for they daily answer, That the Stranger’s Ignorance makes the *Spaniard’s* Profit. The ill Weather has kept me here two Days, during which I saw the Governess, and the Play. The principal Place of this Town is adorn’d with a very fair Fountain standing in the Midst : It is incircled with the Town-house, the

D 3

Prison,

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Prison, two Convents, and several well-built Houses: Here's a new Town and an old one; every body forsakes the latter, to dwell in the other. Here are very rich Merchants; their chief Trade is at *St. Sebastian*, or *Bilboa*: They send great great Store of Iron to *Granada*, *Estremadura*, *Galicia*, and other Parts of the Kingdom. I observ'd, that the great Streets are set with fine Trees, which are water'd with Streams running by them. From Mount *St. Adrian* hither, it is seven Leagues. In fine, I am just setting out, and must end this long Letter; it is late, and I have spoke to you so much of what I have seen, that I have said nothing of my Affections to you: Believe me, however, dear Cousin, that I am, and ever shall be,

From Victoria,
Feb. 24. 1673.

Yours.



L E T T E R I I I.

MY Letters are so long, that it is hard to believe when I finish them, that I have any Thing more to tell you; yet, my dear Cousin, I never close any, but there remains

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remains still sufficient for another: Were I only to speak to you of my Friendship, this would be an inexhaustible Subject; you may make some Judgment of it from the Pleasure I find in obeying your Commands. You are desirous to know all the Particulars of my Voyage, I will therefore go on to relate them.

I set out very late from *Victoria*, by reason of my Stay at the Governess's, whom I before mention'd; and we went to lie at *Miranda*: The Country is very pleasant as far as *Avigny*; we came afterwards by a difficult Way to the Banks of the River *Urrola*, whose Noise is the greater, in that 'tis full of Rocks, on which the Water dashes, beats up, and falls down, and forms several Cascades in several Places. We continued to ascend the high Mountains of the *Pyrenees*, where we ran a thousand several Dangers: We saw the antient Ruins of an old Castle, where Ghosts and Spirits have their Apartments, as well as in that of *Quebara*; it is near *Gargason*; and being to stop there to show my Passport, because here certain Customs are paid to the King, I learn'd from the Alcade of the Borough, who drew near my Litter to talk with me, that it is the common Report of the Country, That there were formerly a King and a Queen here, who had so fine and beautiful

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a Woman to their Daughter, that she was rather taken for a Goddess than a mortal Creature. She was call'd *Mira*; and 'tis from her Name, came the *Mira* of the *Spaniards*, which is to say, *Look you*; for as soon as ever she appear'd, all the People attentively beheld her, and cry'd out, *Mira! Mira!* and here's the Etymology of a Word drawn far enough. This Princess has never been seen by any body who became not desperately in love with her; but her Disdainfulness and Indifference made all her Lovers pine away: The famous Basilisk never kill'd so many People as the beautiful and dreadful *Mira*: She thus depopulated her Father's Kingdom, and all the Countries thereabouts were full of the deceased and dying Lovers. After they had in vain address'd themselves to her, they lastly apply'd themselves to Heaven, to demand Vengeance on her Cruelty: The Gods at length grew angry, and the Goddesses were not much behind them in the Exercise of this Passion; so that to punish her, the Scourges of Heaven finish'd the Destruction of her Father's Kingdom.

In this general Calamity the King consulted the Oracle, which told him, ' That all
' these Miseries would not have an End,
' till *Mira* had expiated the Mischiefs
' which

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‘ which her Eyes had done ; and that
‘ she must be gone ; the Destiny would
‘ conduct her to the Place where she was to
‘ lose her Repose and Liberty.’ The Prin-
cess obey’d, believing it impossible for her
to be touch’d with Tendernefs : She car-
ry’d only her Nurse with her ; she was clad
like a simple Shepherdes, lest she should
be taken notice of, whether by Sea or Land.
She ran over a great Part of the World,
committing every Day two or three Do-
zen Murders ; for her Beauty was not dimi-
nish’d by the Fatigue of her Travels. She
arriv’d at length near this old Castle, which
belong’d to a young Count call’d *Nios*, en-
dow’d with a thousand Perfections, but ex-
treme proud and reserv’d : He spent his
Time in the Woods ; as soon as ever he
perceiv’d a Woman, he fled from her ; and
of all Things he saw in the World, she
was his greatest Aversion, The beautiful
Mira was resting herself one Day under
the Shade of some Trees, when *Nios* pas-
sed by, clothed with a Lion’s Skin, a Bow
at his Girdle, and a Mace on his Shoul-
der ; his Hair was all clotted together, and
his Face besmear’d like a Chimney-
Sweeper’s, (this Circumstance is observa-
ble) yet the Princess thought him the most
handsome Man in the World : She ran
after him as if she had been mad, and
he ran from her as if he had been in the

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same condition: She lost the Sight of him; she knew not where to find him: She is now in the greatest Sorrow, weeping Day and Night with her Nurse. *Nios* return'd to the Chase; she saw him again, and would have follow'd him: As soon as he perceived her, he did as at first; and *Mira* betook herself again to her Lamentations; but her Passion giving her new Strength, she outran him, stopp'd him, taking hold of his Locks, intreating him to look on her, thinking this was enough to engage him. He cast his Eyes on her with as much Indifference, as if she had been an ordinary Person. Never Woman was more surprized: She would not leave him; she came, maugre him, to his Castle; where, as soon as she had enter'd, he left her, and was no more seen. The poor *Mira* being not to be comforted, dy'd with Grief; and from that Time, you hear deep Sighs and Groans, which come from the Castle of *Nios*. The young Wenches of the Country are used to go there, and carry her little Presents of Fruits and Milk, which they set down at the Mouth of a Cave, where no Body dares enter. They said, this was Comfort to her; but this has been abolish'd, as superstitious. And tho' I believ'd not a Word of whatever was told me at *Gargason*, in relation to *Mira* and *Nios*, yet

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I was pleased with the Recital of this Story, of which I omit a thousand Particulars, for fear of tiring you by its Length. My Waiting-woman was so affected wth this Relation, that she was for having us return back again, to set at the Mouth of the Cave some red Partridges, which my People had bought: She imagin'd the Princess's Ghost would be mightily comforted in receiving this Testimony of our Good-will; but, for my Part, I thought I should be more content than her, in having those Partridges for my Supper. We pass'd the River of *Urrola* on a great Stone-Bridge; and having went over another with Difficulty enough, by reason of the melted Snow, we arrived at *Miranda d'Ebro*: This is a great Village, or a little Town; here is a Place adorn'd with a Fountain; the River *Ebro*, which is one of the most considerable of *Spain*, traverses it. You see on the Top of a Mountain, the Castle with several Towers: It appears to be of some Strength; and there issues out so great a Stream from a Rock on which it is built, that it turns several Mills. I could not observe any Thing else worth writing to you.

The three Knights I spake of to you, were arrived before me, and had given all

re-

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requisite Orders for Supper; so we eat together: And tho' the Night appear'd well advanced, because the Days are short in this Season, 'twas not late; so that these Gentlemen, who shewed me great Respect and Civility, asked me, how I would pass the Time? I propos'd to them the Playing at *Ombre*, and that I would go halves with Don *Fernando de Toledo*. They accepted the Offer: Don *Frederick de Cardonne* said, he had rather converse with me than play; so the three others began; and I for some Time gave myself over to the looking on them, with great Pleasure, for their Way is quite different from ours: They never utter a Word, I do not say, to complain, (for this would be unworthy the *Spanish* Gravity) but to demand a *Gano*, or to cut higher, or to shew that one may take some other Advantage. In a Word, they seem to be Statues, or Pieces of *German* Clock-work, never appearing transported with either good or bad Luck. Among other Discourse which I had with Don *Frederick de Cardonne*, he told me, there were two observable Things in *Catalonia*; one of which is a Mountain of Salt, partly white as Snow, and the other Part clearer, and more transparent than Chrystal; that there are Blue, Green, Violet, Orange, and a thousand different Colours, which yet lose their Tincture when wetted;
it

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it continually forms itself, and grows there; and tho' commonly the Places where Salt is to be found, are so barren, that you see not so much as an Herb, yet there are here Pine-Trees of great Height, and excellent Vineyards. When the Sun darts its Rays on this Mountain, it looks as if it wholly consisted of the most precious Stones in the World; but the best of it is, that it yields a good Revenue.

The other Particular he mention'd to me, was of a Fountain, whose Water is very good, and of the same Colour as Claret: 'I have never heard any Thing of this, said I to him, but one of my Relations, who has been in *Catalonia*, has assured me, there is a Fountain near *Balut*, whose Water is as others are for Colour, and yet whatever you put therein, appears to be Gold. I have seen it, Madam, continu'd Don *Frederick*; and I remember a Man that was very covetous, and more foolish, went thither every Day to put therein his Silver, hoping in Time it would be changed into Gold: But he was so far from enriching himself, that he was ruin'd; for some Peasants, more subtle and crafty than he, having perceived what he did, stood watching a little lower, and the Stream of the Water would now and then bring some Pieces to them. If you re-
turn

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' turn into *France* by *Catalonia*, added he,
 ' you will see this Fountain. It is not
 ' that which can draw me thither, reply'd
 ' I, but the Desire of passing by *Montferat*
 ' would make me undertake a longer Jour-
 ' ney. It is situated, said he, near *Bar-*
 ' *celona*, and is a Place of great Devo-
 ' tion: It seems as if the Rock were saw-
 ' ed thro' the Middle. The Church stands
 ' high, is small and obscure. By the Help
 ' of fourscore and ten Lamps of Silver,
 ' you perceive the Image of the Virgin;
 ' which looks very dusky, and is held for
 ' miraculous. The Altar-coft *Philip the Se-*
 ' *cond* thirty thousand Crowns; and here
 ' are every Day seen Pilgrims from all
 ' Parts of the World: This holy Place
 ' abounds with Hermitages, inhabited by
 ' Persons of great Devotion: These are
 ' commonly Men of good Birth, who have
 ' not left the World till they have well
 ' try'd it, and who appear much taken with
 ' the Sweets of their Retirements, tho' the
 ' Place be dismal; and 'twould have been
 ' impossible to have had Access to it, had
 ' not a Passage been cut through the Rocks.
 ' Yet you find here several agreeable Ob-
 ' jects, a curious Prospect, various Springs,
 ' Gardens well dress'd by these Religio-
 ' soes own Hands; and every where a
 ' certain Air of Solitude and Devotion,
 ' which mightily affect those who come
 ' there.

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‘ there. We have another famous Place of
‘ Devotion, added he, and that is *Nu-*
‘ *estra Senora del Pilar* : It is at *Saragossa*,
‘ in a Chappel, on a Pillar of Marble, where
‘ Our Lady holds the Babe Jesus in her
‘ Arms. It is pretended that the Virgin ap-
‘ peared on this same Pillar to St. *James* ;
‘ and the Image is here worshipped with
‘ great Reverence. It cannot be well ob-
‘ serv’d, because it stands so high, and in
‘ a very dark Place ; so that without the
‘ Flambeaux, it could not be seen at all.
‘ Here are always fifty Lamps burning ;
‘ Gold and precious Stones shine here on
‘ all Sides ; and the Pilgrims come here in
‘ great Shoals. But yet, says he, I may
‘ truly say, in Favour of *Saragossa*, that ’tis
‘ one of the finest Towns you shall see :
‘ It is situated along the *Ebre*, in a vast
‘ Field, is adorn’d with great Buildings,
‘ rich Churches, a stately Bridge, fine open
‘ Palaces, and the most charming Wo-
‘ men in the World, who love *French*,
‘ and will omit nothing to oblige you to
‘ speak well of them, if you pass by there.”
I told him, I had already heard several
Things spoken of them to their Commen-
dation : ‘ But, continu’d I, this Country
‘ is very barren, and the Soldiers can hard-
‘ ly subsist in it. In Effect, reply’d he,
‘ whether the Air be bad, or that they
‘ want Necessaries, the *Flemings* and Ger-
‘ mans

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' *mans* cannot live there ; and if they do
 ' not die there, 'tis because they ran a-
 ' way. The *Spaniards* and *Neapolitans* are
 ' more prone than they to desert ; these
 ' last pass'd thro' *France*, to return into
 ' their Country ; the others coast the *Py-*
 ' *renees* along *Languedoc*, and enter *Castile*
 ' by *Navarre* or *Biscay*. This is a Course
 ' which the old Soldiers fail not to steer ;
 ' for the new-raisd ones perish in *Catalo-*
 ' *nia*, being not accustom'd thereto ; and
 ' it is certain, there is no Place where War
 ' is more troublesome to the King of
 ' *Spain*. He maintains his Forces here
 ' with great Charge, and the Advantage
 ' which the Enemy gains of him, is not
 ' small ; and I very well know, they are
 ' more sensible at *Madrid*, for the smallest
 ' Loss in *Catalonia*, than they would be for
 ' the greatest in *Flanders*, or *Milan*, or
 ' elsewhere. But at present, continues he,
 ' we are going to be more at our Ease
 ' than we have been, it being expected at
 ' Court, that the Peace will be lasting, be-
 ' cause they talk much of a Marriage
 ' which will make a new Alliance ; and
 ' the Marquis *de los Balbares*, Plenipo-
 ' tentiary at *Nimeguen*, has received Or-
 ' ders to pass speedily to *France*, to de-
 ' mand of that King, *Mademoiselle d'Or-*
 ' *leans* ; therefore it is not doubted but
 ' the Marriage will be concluded : But it
 ' is

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' is thought very strange Don *John* of *Austria* should consent to this Marriage. You
' will do me a singular Pleasure, said I,
' interrupting him, if you would inform
' me of some Particularities touching this
' Prince: It is natural to have a Curio-
' sity in relation to Persons of this Cha-
' racter; and when a body comes into a
' Court where one was never before, that
' I may not appear a Novice, I should
' have some previous Notices.' He an-
swer'd me, it would be a great Satisfac-
tion to him if he could relate any
Thing might please me, and he began
thus:

' You will not, perhaps, Madam, think
' it amiss, that I begin at the Original
' of Things, and tell you that this
' Prince was the Son of one of the finest
' Women in *Spain*, named *Maria Calderon-
ronna*: She was a Player; and the Duke
' *de Medina de las Torres* became desperate-
' ly in love with her: This Cavalier had
' so many Advantages above others, that
' *Calderon* lov'd him no less than she was
' beloved by him. In the Heat of this
' Intrigue, *Philip the Fourth* saw her, and
' preferr'd her to be one of the Queen's
' Maids of Honour, who was so griev'd
' at this Change of the King, whom she re-
' ally lov'd, and had a Son by, that she
' retir'd from the World, and betook her-
self

88 *The Lady's Travels into Spain:*

' mans cannot live there ; and if they do
 ' not die there, 'tis because they ran a-
 ' way. The *Spaniards* and *Neapolitans* are
 ' more prone than they to desert ; these
 ' last pass'd thro' *France*, to return into
 ' their Country ; the others coast the *Py-*
 ' *renees* along *Languedoc*, and enter *Castile*
 ' by *Navarre* or *Biscay*. This is a Course
 ' which the old Soldiers fail not to steer ;
 ' for the new-rai's'd ones perish in *Catalo-*
 ' *nia*, being not accus'tom'd thereto ; and
 ' it is certain, there is no Place where War
 ' is more troublesome to the King of
 ' *Spain*. He maintains his Forces here
 ' with great Charge, and the Advantage
 ' which the Enemy gains of him, is not
 ' small ; and I very well know, they are
 ' more sensible at *Madrid*, for the smallest
 ' Loss in *Catalonia*, than they would be for
 ' the greatest in *Flanders*, or *Milan*, or
 ' elsewhere. But at present, continues he,
 ' we are going to be more at our Ease
 ' than we have been, it being expected at
 ' Court, that the Peace will be lasting, be-
 ' cause they talk much of a Marriage
 ' which will make a new Alliance ; and
 ' the Marquis *de los Balbares*, Plenipo-
 ' tentiary at *Nimeguen*, has received Or-
 ' ders to pass speedily to *France*, to de-
 ' mand of that King, Madamoiselle d'*Or-*
 ' *leans* ; therefore it is not doubted but
 ' the Marriage will be concluded : But it
 ' is

The Lady's Travels into Spain. 89

' is thought very strange Don *John* of *Aus-*
' *tria* should consent to this Marriage. You
' will do me a singular Pleasure, said I,
' interrupting him, if you would inform
' me of some Particularities touching this
' Prince: It is natural to have a Curio-
' sity in relation to Persons of this Cha-
' racter; and when a body comes into a
' Court where one was never before, that
' I may not appear a Novice, I should
' have some previous Notices.' He an-
swer'd me, it would be a great Satisf-
faction to him if he could relate any
Thing might please me, and he began
thus:

' You will not, perhaps, Madam, think
' it amiss, that I begin at the Original
' of Things, and tell you that this
' Prince was the Son of one of the finest
' Women in *Spain*, named *Maria Calde-*
' *ronna*: She was a Player; and the Duke
' *de Medina de las Torres* became desperate-
' ly in love with her: This Cavalier had
' so many Advantages above others, that
' *Calderon* lov'd him no less than she was
' beloved by him. In the Heat of this
' Intrigue, *Philip the Fourth* saw her, and
' prefer'd her to be one of the Queen's
' Maids of Honour, who was so griev'd
' at this Change of the King, whom she re-
' ally lov'd, and had a Son by, that she
' retir'd from the World, and betook her-
' self

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' self to *Los del Calsas-Reales*, where she
 ' put on the Religioſoe's Habit. As for
 ' *Calderonna*, her Inclination lying wholly
 ' towards the Duke *de Medina*, ſhe would
 ' not hearken to the King, unleſs the
 ' Duke would thereto conſent: She ſpake
 ' to him of it, and offer'd to withdraw
 ' ſecretly where he would; but the Duke
 ' fearing to incur the King's Diſpleaſure,
 ' answer'd her, he was reſolved to yield
 ' up to his Maſteſty a Treafure which he
 ' was not in a Capacity to contend for.
 ' She made him a thouſand Reproaches for
 ' this; ſhe call'd him Traytor to his Love,
 ' ingrateful towards his Miſtreſs: And
 ' moreover, told him, that tho' he was ſo
 ' happy, as that he could diſpoſe of his
 ' Heart as he pleaſed, yet ſhe could not
 ' do the ſame; and therefore he muſt con-
 ' tinue to viſit her, or prepare to ſee her
 ' die with Deſpair. The Duke, affected
 ' with ſo great a Paſſion, promiſed to
 ' feign a Journey to *Andaluſia*, and to
 ' remain with her hid in a Cloſet: He
 ' effectually parted from the Court, and
 ' afterwards ſhut himſelf up (as it was a-
 ' greed) whatever Risk he ran by ſo im-
 ' prudent Conduct. The King in the
 ' mean Time was very amorous, and re-
 ' main'd very well ſatisfy'd: ſhe had,
 ' during this, Don *John d'Auſtria*, and
 ' the Reſemblance he had with the Duke

de

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' *de Medina de las Torres*, had made it be
' thought that he was his Son; but tho'
' the King had other Children, and parti-
' cularly the Bishop of *Malaga*, good For-
' tune decided in his Favour, and he only
' has been acknowledg'd.

' Don *John's* Friends say, That 'twas
' by reason of the Exchange which had
' been made of the Son of *Calderonna* for
' the Son of the Queen: And this is the
' Account of this Change; which is a
' Story made on purpose to impose on the
' World; and which, I believe, has no
' Ground of Truth: They pretend the
' King being desperately in love with
' this Player, she became big with Child
' at the same Time as the Queen; and
' seeing the King's Passion was so greatly
' towards her, that she might expect any
' Thing, she so order'd it, that she made
' him promise her, that if the Queen
' had a Son, and she likewise, he should
' put her's in his Place. What will you lose
' by this, Sir? said she: Will it not be
' your Son that will still reign, only with
' this Difference, that loving me, as you
' say you do, you will love him likewise
' the better. She had Wit; and the King
' could deny her nothing. He consented,
' and in effect the Business was manag'd
' with that Address, that the Queen be-
' ing brought to Bed of a Son, and *Cal-*
' *deronna*.

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' *deronna* of another, the Exchange was
 ' made. He that should have reign'd,
 ' and who bore the Name of *Beltazar*,
 ' dy'd at the Age of fourteen Years. The
 ' King was told, 'twas with over-heating
 ' himself at Tennis: But the Truth is,
 ' this Prince was suffer'd to keep bad Com-
 ' pany, which procur'd him his Misfor-
 ' tunes. It is said likewise, That Don
 ' *Pedro de Arragon*, his Governor, and
 ' Chief Gentleman of his Chamber, more
 ' contributed to this than any other, suf-
 ' fering him to bring into his Apart-
 ' ment a Woman he lov'd: After this he
 ' was taken with a violent Fever, and con-
 ' cealed the Occasion: The Physicians,
 ' who were ignorant of it, thought to ease
 ' him by frequent Bleedings, which put an
 ' End to what Strength he had; and by
 ' this Means they ended his Life. The
 ' King knowing, but too late, what had
 ' happen'd, banish'd Don *Pedro* for not
 ' hindering this Excess, or for not having
 ' timely discover'd it.

' In the mean Time Don *John of Austria*,
 ' who was brought up as the natural
 ' Son, changed not his Condition, tho'
 ' this ought to have been, had he been
 ' indeed the lawful Son; yet notwith-
 ' standing this, his Creatures affirm, he
 ' so exactly resembles the Queen, that
 ' she needs no other Picture of her
 ' Likeness.

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‘ Likeness. And this Opinion fails not of
‘ gaining belief with the People, who run
‘ violently after Novelties, and who so
‘ passionately loved this great Queen, that
‘ they bewail her still as if she was but now
‘ deceas’d. It is true, that if Don *John* of
‘ *Austria* would make his Advantage of
‘ the favourable Dispositions of the People,
‘ he has met with several Opportunities
‘ of extending his Fortune very far; but
‘ his only Aim is to serve the King, and
‘ to keep his Subjects in those Senti-
‘ ments of Fidelity they ought to have
‘ for him.

‘ To return to *Calderonna*: The King
‘ surpriz’d one Day the Duke *de Medina*
‘ with her; and in the Excess of his Rage,
‘ he ran to him with his Ponyard in his
‘ Hand: He was about to kill him,
‘ when this Woman placed herself between,
‘ telling him, he might strike her if he
‘ would. Having the most extreme Pas-
‘ sion for her, he could not but pardon
‘ him, contenting himself only with ba-
‘ nishing him: But understanding she con-
‘ tinu’d to love him, and write to him, he
‘ study’d only how to get a different Pas-
‘ sion. When he had one strong enough
‘ not to apprehend the Charms of *Calde-*
‘ *ronna*, he sent word to her to retire in-
‘ to a Monastery, as is customary when
‘ the King forsakes his Mistress. She
‘ put

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‘ put it not off, writing a Letter to the
 ‘ Duke to bid him adieu : And she re-
 ‘ ceiv’d the Veil of a Religiose from the
 ‘ Hand of the Apostolick Nuncio, who
 ‘ since became *Innocent X.* It is very likely
 ‘ the King believ’d Don *John* was his
 ‘ real Son, seeing he lov’d him so dear-
 ‘ ly : One Thing will appear to you very
 ‘ singular ; which is, that a King of *Spain*
 ‘ having natural Sons own’d by him, they
 ‘ never enter’d *Madrid* during his Life. So
 ‘ Don *John* was brought up at *Occanna*,
 ‘ which is some Leagues distant from it.
 ‘ The King his Father came oft thither,
 ‘ and he made him come even to the Gates
 ‘ of the Town, where he went to meet
 ‘ him. This Custom arises from the
 ‘ Grandees of *Spain* disputing the Rank
 ‘ which these Princes would hold. Don
 ‘ *John*, before he went into *Catalonia*, re-
 ‘ main’d commonly at *Buen Retiro*,
 ‘ which is the Royal Seat, at one of the
 ‘ farthest Parts of *Madrid*, a little with-
 ‘ out the Gate : And he shew’d himself so
 ‘ little, that he was never seen at any pub-
 ‘ lick Feast during the Life of the late
 ‘ King ; but since, Times have changed,
 ‘ and his Fortune stands on a different Bot-
 ‘ tom.

‘ Whilst the Queen, *Maria-Anne* of
 ‘ *Austria*, Sister to the Emperor, and the
 ‘ King’s Mother, govern’d *Spain*, and her
 ‘ Son

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' Son was not yet of Age to hold the Reins
' of the State, she would always have Don
' *John* keep from the Court; and more-
' over found herself so capable of govern-
' ing, that she had a mind to ease her Son
' for a long Time of the Burden of ruling.
' She was not troubled to see him ignorant
' of whatever might give a Desire of reign-
' ing: But tho' she took the greatest Pre-
' cautions to hinder him from feeling he
' was under too strict a Tutelage, and suf-
' fering no Persons to come near him, but
' those she was well assur'd of, yet this hin-
' der'd not; for some of the King's faith-
' ful Servants hazarded themselves, by giv-
' ing him to understand what he might do
' for his Liberty. He follow'd the Advice
' which was given him; and in fine, having
' taken Measures accordingly, he stole away
' one Night, and went to *Buen Retiro*. He
' soon sent from thence an Order to the
' Queen his Mother, not to stir out of the
' Palace.

' Don *John* is of a middle Stature, well
' shaped, has black and lively Eyes, and a
' most manly Countenance. He is polite,
' generous, and very brave. He is igno-
' rant of nothing befitting his Birth, be-
' ing well vers'd in all Arts and Sciences.
' He writes and speaks well five Lan-
' guages, and understands yet more. He
' has

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' has for a long Time study'd Judiciary
' Astrology. There is no Instrument
' which he cannot make, and use,
' with the best Masters. He works on
' all Kinds of Mechanicks, makes Arms,
' and paints finely. He took a great Plea-
' sure in the Mathematicks; but being
' charged with the Government of the State,
' he has been obliged to lay aside all other
' Employments.

' He came to *Buen Retiro*, in the Begin-
' ning of the Year 1677; and as soon as he
' was there, he sent the Queen-Mother to
' *Toledo*, because she had declared against
' him, and hinder'd his Return to the King.
' Don *John* had an extreme Joy in receiving
' from the King's own Hand an Order to
' take care of every Thing, and to manage
' the Affairs of the Kingdom. And 'twas
' not without Occasion he discharg'd him-
' self of him, seeing he then was ignorant
' of the Art of Reigning. It was alledg-
' ed for a Reason of his slow Education,
' That the King his Father was dying
' when he gave him Life: That when
' he came into the World, they were fain
' to put him in a Box of Cotton, being so
' tender and small, that he could not be
' swaddled: That he was brought up in
' the Arms and on the Knees of the
' Ladies of the Palace, till he was ten
' Years

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‘ Years old, without putting his Foot once
‘ all this while on the Ground to walk :
‘ That in the Sequel, the Queen his Mo-
‘ ther, who was engaged by all the Ties
‘ of natural Duty to preserve this only
‘ Heir of the *Spanish* Branch, fearing to
‘ lose him, dared not let him study, lest,
‘ by too great an Application, he should
‘ lose his Health, which, in Truth, was
‘ very unfound. And ’twas observ’d, that
‘ the great Number of Women with whom
‘ the King always was, and who, too
‘ sharply reprehended him for his Faults
‘ which he committed, had inspir’d him
‘ with such a great Aversion to them,
‘ that as soon as ever he had notice a
‘ Lady stay’d for him in any Place he
‘ was to pass, he stole another Way, or
‘ kept himself shut up all Day in his
‘ Chamber. The Marchioness *de los Veles*,
‘ who was his Governess, told me, she
‘ waited for an Opportunity full six Months
‘ to speak with him ; and when Chance
‘ had brought them unavoidably to him,
‘ he took their Requests from their Hands,
‘ but turn’d his Head another Way, for
‘ fear he should see them. His Health is
‘ since so increas’d, that his Marriage with
‘ the Arch-Dutchess, the Emperor’s
‘ Daughter, having been broke off by
‘ Don *John*, by reason it was the Queen-
‘ Mother’s Project, he has desired to marry

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‘ Madamoiselle d’Orleans. The Circum-
‘ stances of the Peace which was lately
‘ concluded at *Nimeguen*, made him cast
‘ his Eyes towards this Princess, with
‘ whose exceeding Qualities, Madam, you
‘ are better acquainted than I. It is hard
‘ to believe, that having Dispositions so
‘ far from Gallantry, he should become so
‘ suddenly and vehemently in love with
‘ the Queen, as he became only on the
‘ Rehearfal of her good Qualities, and at
‘ the Sight of her Picture in Miniature,
‘ which was shew’d him. He never lets
‘ it go out of his Hand ; he always holds
‘ it to his Heart ; he dialogues with it so
‘ prettily, as astonishes all the Courtiers ;
‘ for he speaks a Language he never spoke.
‘ His Passion for the Princess furnishes him
‘ with a thousand Thoughts which he dares
‘ not entrust any Body with. He thinks
‘ no body makes haste enough, and there-
‘ fore sends fresh Couriers every Day to
‘ carry his *Billet-deux*, and bring back News
‘ of her.

‘ When you come to *Madrid*, added he,
‘ you will hear Madam, several Particu-
‘ lars, which have without doubt happen’d
‘ since I was there, will perhaps more satisfy
‘ your Curiosity than what I have related
‘ to you. I am very much obliged to you,
‘ answer’d I, for your Civilities ; but do me
‘ the Favour to oblige me farther, in giving
‘ me

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‘ me the true Character of the *Spaniards* :
‘ You know them ; and I am persuaded,
‘ nothing has escaped your Enquiries. You
‘ speaking to me without Passion or Interest,
‘ I may reckon myself sure of what you tell
‘ me. Why believe you, Madam, reply’d
‘ he smiling, that I shall speak to you more
‘ sincerely than another ; There are Rea-
‘ sons which may render me suspected ; they
‘ are my Masters, I must manage them ; and
‘ if I be not politick enough to do it, the
‘ Vexation of being constrain’d to obey them
‘ would tempt me to entertain Notions on
‘ their Respect contrary to Truth. However
‘ it be, said I, interrupting him, pray tell
‘ me what you know of ’em.

‘ The *Spaniards*, said he, have always
‘ pass’d for Fierce and Glorious : This
‘ Glory is mix’d with Gravity ; and they
‘ carry it so far, that one may call it an
‘ extravagant Pride. They are brave with-
‘ out being rash, yet they are accused
‘ for not being daring enough. They are
‘ cholerick and revengeful without shew-
‘ ing any Transport ; liberal without Of-
‘ tentation ; sober in their Diet ; very pre-
‘ sumptuous in Prosperity, and too ram-
‘ pant in Adversity. They idolize Women,
‘ and are so far prepossess’d in their Fa-
‘ vour, that they shew no Discretion in
‘ the Choice of their Wives. They are
‘ patient to Excess, obstinate, idle, sin-
‘ gular,

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‘ gular Philosophizers ; and as to the rest,
‘ Men of Honour, keeping their Words
‘ tho’ it cost them their Lives. They have
‘ a great deal of Wit and Vivacity, easily
‘ comprehend, explain themselves in
‘ the same Manner, and in few Words:
‘ They are prudent, jealous without Measure,
‘ disinterested, bad Oeconomists, close,
‘ superstitious, great Catholicks, at least,
‘ in Appearance : They are good Poets, and
‘ write Verses with great Facility. They
‘ would be capable of nobler Sciences,
‘ would they vouchsafe to apply themselves thereto.

‘ They have a greatness of Soul, elevated
‘ Wit, Constancy, a natural Seriousness,
‘ and a Respect for Ladies, as is not
‘ seen elsewhere : They have a set Behaviour,
‘ full of Affectation, intimated with their
‘ own Merit, hardly ever in this Particular,
‘ doing Right to that of others. Their Bravery
‘ consists in standing valiantly on the defensive
‘ Part, without giving Ground, and without
‘ dreading the Danger ; but they love not to
‘ seek it, which proceeds from their great
‘ Judgment : They discern Danger, and avoid
‘ it. Their greatest Defect, in my Opinion,
‘ is the Passion of Revenge, and the Means
‘ they use for this : Their Maxims hereupon
‘ are absolutely opposite to Christianity and
‘ Honour. When they

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they have received an Affront, they make him be assassinated who has offer'd it. They are not contented with this ; for they cause them to be assassinated likewise whom they have offended, in the Apprehension of being prevented ; knowing well, that if they do not kill, they shall be killed themselves. They pretend to justify themselves herein, when they say that their Enemy having took the first Advantage, they ought to secure themselves of the second ; that should they fall herein, they would wrong their Reputation ; that you must not fight with a Man that has insulted over you, but put yourself in a Condition to punish him without running half the Dangers. It is true, that Impunity authorizes this Conduct ; for the Privileges of Churches and Convents in Spain, is to give an assured Retreat to Criminals ; and as near as they can, they commit these Villanies hard by a Sanctuary, so have the less Way to an Altar ; which you often see embraced by a Villain, with his Ponyard reeking in his Hand, and besmeared with the Blood of the Murder which he has committed.

As to their Persons, they are very lean, little, fine Shape, comely Head, good Faces, fine Eyes, well-set Teeth,

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‘ yellow and duskyish Complexion: They
 ‘ will have one walk slowly, commend
 ‘ big Legs, and a little Foot, Shoes
 ‘ without Heels, parting the Hair on
 ‘ both Sides, being strait-cut, and kept
 ‘ behind their Ears; with a great two-
 ‘ handed Hat, an Habit always black;
 ‘ instead of a Shirt, Taffaty Sleeves, or
 ‘ black Tabby; a Sword of a strange
 ‘ Length, with a black Frize Cloak over
 ‘ all this, very strait Breeches, Hanging-
 ‘ sleeves, and a Ponyard. All this must
 ‘ so disfigure a Man, let him be other-
 ‘ wise never so well shap’d, that they
 ‘ seem to affect the Garb the most dis-
 ‘ agreeable; and one’s Eyes cannot with
 ‘ any Complacency accustom themselves
 ‘ to this Sight.’

Don *Frederick* would have continu’d on his Discourse, and I had so much Pleasure in hearing him, that I would not have interrupted him; but he broke off himself, having observ’d that the Play was at an End, and considering that we were to set out early next Morning, he thought I might be desirous of retiring; he therefore with the other Gentlemen, bid me Good-night. I rose very soon next Morning, because ’twas a great Journey to *Birbiesca*, where we intended to lie. We followed the River, to avoid the Mountains, and pass’d at *Oron*, a great

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great River, which falls into the *Ebre*. We awhile after enter'd into so straight a Way, that our Litters could scarce pass. We ascended along a very straight Coast to *Pancorvo*, whose Castle I saw standing on a rais'd Ground not far distant. We travers'd a great Plain; and this was a Novelty to us, to see an even Country. This here is surrounded with several Mountains, which seem link'd together as a Chain, and especially those of *Oeca*. We must again pass over a little River, before we can come to *Birbiesca*: This is only a Borough, which has nothing remarkable but its College, and some few pleasant Gardens along the Water. But I may say, we came thither in worse Weather than any we had yet. I was so tir'd, that as soon as I arriv'd, I went to Bed; so that I saw not Don *Fernando de Toledo*, and the other Gentlemen, till the next Day at *Castel de Peones*. But I should tell you how one is serv'd in these Inns, they being all alike: When you come into one of them, weary'd and tir'd, roasted by the Heat of the Sun, or frozen by the Snows (for there is seldom any Temperament between those two Extreams) you see neither Pot on the Fire, nor Plates wash'd. You enter into the Stable, and from thence to your Chamber; this Stable is ordinarily full of Mules and Mu-

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letteers, who make use of their Mules Saddles for Pillows, in the Night, and in the Day-time, they serve them for Tables. They eat very friendly with their Mules, and are very good Company together.

The Stair-Case by which you go up is very strait, and does rather resemble a forry Ladder. *La Sennora de la Casa* receives you with her Gown tuck'd up, and her dangling Sleeves: She takes Time to put on her Sunday Cloaths whilst you get out of your Litter; and she never omits this; for they are all very poor and vain-glorious. You are shew'd a Chamber whose Walls are white enough, hung with a thousand little scurvy Pictures of Saints: The Beds are without Curtains, the Covertures of Cotton, the Sheets are as large as Napkins, and the Napkins like Pocket-handkerchiefs; and you must be in some considerable Town to find four or five of them; for in other Places there are none, no more than there are Forks. They have only one Cup in the House; and if the Mule-drivers get first hold of it, which commonly happens, if they please, (for they are served with more Respect than those whom they bring) you must stay patiently till they have done with it, or drink out of an Earthen Pitcher. It is impossible to warm one at the Kitchen-Fire without being choak'd; for they have no Chimneys, and 'tis the same
in

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in all all the Houses upon the Road ; there is an Hole made in the Top of the Cieling, and the Smoke goes out thence, the Fire being in the Midst of the Kitchen. They put what you would have roasted, on Tiles, and when 'tis well grill'd on one Side, they turn the other : When 'tis gross Meat, they fasten it to a String, and so let it hang on the Fire, and turn it with their Hands ; so that the Smoke makes it so black, that it would turn one's Stomach to look on it.

I think there cannot be a better Representation of Hell than these sort of Kitchens, and the Persons in them ; for not to speak of this horrible Smoke, which blinds and choaks one, there are a dozen Men, and as many Women, blacker than Devils, nasty and stinking like Swine, and clad like Beggars. There are always some of them impudently grating on a sorry Guittar, and singing like a Cat a roasting. The Women have all of them their Hair about their Ears, and you would take 'em for *Bedlamites* : They have Glass Necklaces which hang twisted about their Necks like Ropes of Onions, but however serve to cover the Nastiness of their Skin. They are as great Thieves as any are in Jail ; and they are urgent to serve you, only to have an Opportunity to steal something from you tho' it be but a Pin.

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Before all Things, the Mistress of the House brings you little Children, who are bare-headed in the Midst of Winter, tho' but of a Day old: She makes 'em touch your Cloaths, she rubs their Eyes with them, their Cheeks, Throat and Hands. This seems as if one was become a Relick, and could heal all Diseases. These Ceremonies over, you are asked if you will eat any Thing? And tho' at Midnight, you must send to the Butcher's, the Market, the Tavern, the Baker's, in fine, to all Parts of the Town, to gather wherewith to make a sorry Meal; for tho' the Mutton here be very tender, their Way of frying it with Oil, is not to every body's Relish. Here are great Store of Partridges, and those very large; they are not very fat, but dry; and to make them drier, they roast them to a Coal. The Pigeons here are excellent, and in several Places: Here is good Fish, especially Besugosses, which have the Taste of a Trout, and of which they make Pasties; which would be good, were they not stuff'd with Garliff, Saffron, and Pepper. Their Bread is white enough and sweet, that one would think it was made up with Sugar; but it is ill wrought, and so little baked, that it is as heavy as Lead in the Stomach: It has the Shape of a flat Cake, and is not much thicker than one's Finger.

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ger. The Wine is good, and Fruits in their Season, especially Grapes, which are very large, and of delicate Taste. You may reckon yourself certain of a good Defart. You have Salads here of such good Lettuce, as the World cannot afford better.

Do not think (dear Cousin) 'tis sufficient to say, *Go fetch such Things, to have 'em* ; for very often you can meet with nothing. But supposing you find what you would have, you must give out your Money before-hand ; so that your Meat is paid for before you begin to eat it : For the Master of the Inn is only allowed to lodge you. They alledge for a Reason, That it is not just one Person only should go away with all the Profit from Travellers, it being better the Money should be dispersed.

You enter not any Inn to dine, but carry your Provision with you, and stop at the Bank of some River, where the Mule-Drivers bait their Mules ; and this is with Oats or Barley, and with chopp'd Straw, which they carry with them in great Sacks, for they give them no Hay. A Woman is not allowed to tarry above two Days in an Inn upon the Road, unless she can offer good Reasons. And here's enough in relation to Inns, and the Manner of your Treatment therein.

After

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After Supper these Gentlemen play'd at Ombre, and I not being strong enough to play against them, went shares with Don *Frederick de Cardonne*, and Don *Fernando* drew near the Fire-side to me : He told me, he could have wish'd my Time would permit me to pass by *Valladolid* ; that it is the most pleasant Town of *Old Castile*, it having been for a great while the Mansion of the Kings of *Spain* ; and that they have a Palace there fit for them. That he had Relations there who would be infinitely pleased to entertain me, and would shew me the *Dominicans* Church, which the Dukes of *Lerma* have founded : That it was very stately, and the Portal of singular Beauty, by means of the Figures and embossed Works which enrich it. That in the College of the same Convent, the *French* see there, with great Satisfaction, all the Walls full of *Flower-de-luces*, it being said, a Bishop, who depended on the King of *France*, had been at the Charge of painting them. He added, they would have carry'd me to the Religioes of *St. Claire*, to shew me in the Choir of their Church, the Tomb of a *Castilian* Knight, whence, 'tis said, issue out Accents and Groans every Time any of his Family are near their Deaths. I smiled at this, as being doubtful of the Truth of such kind of Relations. ' You give no Credit to
' what

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‘ what I say, continu’d he, neither would
‘ I engage for the Truth of it, tho’ all the
‘ Country thereabouts are so fully persua-
‘ ded of it, that you would be suspected
‘ for an Heretick, should you question it.
‘ But it is certain, there is a Bell in *Arra-*
‘ *gon*, in a small Town call’d *Villilla*, on
‘ the *Ebre*, which is about fifty Foot com-
‘ pass; and it happens sometimes to sound
‘ of itself, it being not perceivable to be
‘ agitated by any Wounds or Earthquakes;
‘ in a Word, by no visible Thing. It
‘ first tolls, and afterwards, by Intervals,
‘ rings out, as well in the Day as the Night.
‘ When it is heard, it is not doubted but
‘ it denounces some sad Accident; which
‘ is what happen’d in 1601, on *Thursday*
‘ the 13th of *June*, till *Saturday* the 15th
‘ of the same Month; it ceased then to
‘ ring, but it began again on *Corpus-Christi*,
‘ when they were on the Point of making
‘ the Procession. It was heard likewise,
‘ when *Alphonfus the Fifth*, King of *Ar-*
‘ *ragon*, went into *Italy* to take possession
‘ of the Kingdom of *Naples*. It was
‘ heard at the Death of *Charles the Fifth*.
‘ It denoted the Departure of *Don Sebas-*
‘ *tian*, King of *Portugal*, for *Africk*; the
‘ Extremitie of King *Philip the Second*,
‘ and the Decease of his last Wife Queen
‘ *Anne*. You would have me to believe
‘ you, *Don Fernando*, said I; perhaps, I
‘ shall

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‘ shall seem too obstinate in standing out
 ‘ all this while ; but you will agree there
 ‘ are Matters one may lawfully doubt of.
 ‘ Nay, Madam, reply’d he, with a pleasant Air, I tell you nothing but what I
 ‘ can have a thousand Witnesses to justify ;
 ‘ but perhaps you will sooner believe Don
 ‘ *Esteve de Carvaial*, in a Thing as extraordinary in his Country.’ He at the same
 Time called to him, demanding of him,
 whether ’twere not true, that there is in
 the Convent of *Cordoua*, a Clock, which
 fails not to ring every Time a Religioſoe is
 to die ; so that the Time is known to a Day.
 Don *Esteve* confirm’d what Don *Fernando*
 ſaid ; and tho’ I remain’d not absolutely
 convinced, yet I made a Shew as if I
 was.

‘ You paſs ſo quickly thro’ *Old Caſtile*,
 ‘ continu’d Don *Fernando*, that you will
 ‘ not have Time to ſee what’s moſt remarkable : The Picture of the *Bleſſed*
 ‘ *Virgin* is talk’d of far and near, which
 ‘ was found miraculoſly ſtamp’d on a
 ‘ Rock ; it belongs to the Religious *Auguſtines d’Avila*, and ſeveral Perſons go
 ‘ there out of Devotion : But one has no
 ‘ leſs Curioſity to ſee certain Mines of
 ‘ Salt, which are near there in a Village
 ‘ call’d *Mengrville* ; you deſcend above
 ‘ two hundred Steps under Ground, and
 ‘ then enter into a vaſt Cavern, form’d
 ‘ by

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' by Nature, whose Top or Roof is up-
' held by only one Pillar of Chryſtalline
' Salt, of aſtoniſhing Largeneſs and Co-
' lour. Near this Place in the Town of
' *Soria*, you ſee a great Bridge without
' a River, and a great River without a
' Bridge, the River being forced out of
' its Place by an Earthquake.

' But if you go as far as *Medina del*
' *Campo*, added he, I am ſure the Inhabi-
' tants will give you welcome Entrance,
' only becauſe you are of the *French* Na-
' tion, whom they much affect, to diſtin-
' guiſh themſelves hereby from the Senti-
' ments of the other *Caſtilians*: Their
' Town is ſo privileged, that the King of
' *Spain* has not the Power to create any
' Officers, nor the Pope to confer Benefices.
' This Right belongs to the Townſmen,
' and they often fall together by the Ears,
' in chuſing of their Magiſtrates and Ec-
' cleſiaſticks.

' One of the Rarities of this Country
' is the Aquaduct of *Segovia*, which is five
' Leagues in Length: It has above two
' hundred Arches of extraordinary Height,
' tho' in ſeveral Places there are two ſtand-
' ing one upon another; and 'tis all built
' on Freſtone, there having been no
' Mortar, nor any Cement to join them:
' This is look'd on as one of the *Roman*
' Works, or at leaſt as worthy to be ſo.

' The

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‘ The River, which is at the End of the
‘ Town, surrounds the Castle, and serves
‘ it for a Ditch: It is built on a Rock.
‘ Among several Things remarkable, you
‘ see the Effigies of the Kings of *Spain*,
‘ who have reign’d for several Years. There
‘ is no Town but *Segovia* and *Seville* where
‘ Money is coin’d, and the Pieces of Eight
‘ which are made at the former Place, are
‘ held to be the best ; and this is by means
‘ of the River, which turns certain Mills
‘ that stamp the Money. Here are like-
‘ wise most curious Walks along a Mea-
‘ dow, planted with Elm-Trees, whose
‘ Leaves are so thick and large, that the
‘ greatest Heat of the Sun cannot pierce
‘ ’em. I want not Curiosity, said I to him,
‘ for all Things that deserve it ; but I at
‘ present want Time to see them. How-
‘ ever, I should be very glad to arrive time-
‘ ly at *Burgos*, to view the Town. Which
‘ is to say, Madam, reply’d Don *Fernando*,
‘ we must lose your Company, and let you
‘ retire.’

He gave Notice thereof to the other
Gentlemen; who gave over their Play ;
and we thus separated.

I rose this Morning before Day ; and
I end this Letter at *Burgos*, where I am
now arriv’d. Thus, dear Cousin, I shall
send you nothing of this Day, but shall
take

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take the first Occasion to acquaint you with what befalls me.

From Burgos,
Feb. 27. 2673.

Yours.



L E T T E R I V.

WE could sensibly perceive in arriving at *Burgos*, that this Town is colder than any of those we pass'd; and 'tis likewise said, you have none of those excessive Heats, which are intolerable in other Parts of *Spain*. The Town stands where you descend the Mountain, and reaches to the Plain as far as the River, which washes the Foot of the Wall. The Streets are very strait and even; the Castle is not great, but very strong, and is seen on the Top of the Mountain: A little lower is the Triumphant Arch of *Fernando Gonfales*, which the Curious so much admire. This Town was the first that was conquered from the *Moor*s; and the Kings of *Spain* have long resided here: 'Tis the Capital of *Old Castile*, it holds the first Rank in the two States of the two *Castiles*; altho' *Toledo* disputes it with her. You see here fine Buildings, and *Velasco's* Palace

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Palace is very stately. Here are in all the broad Streets and spacious Places, Fountains with Statues, some of which are good Pieces: But the finest Sight is the Cathedral, which is so large, that Mass is said in five several Places of it, without any Disturbance to each other. The Architecture is so exquisitely wrought, that it may pass among the *Gothick* Buildings for a Masterpiece of Art: And this is so much the more remarkable, in that they build very sparingly in *Spain*. In some Places, this is thro' Poverty, and in others, for want of Stone and Lime. I am told, that even at *Madrid*, you see Houses of Earth, and the finest are made with Brick, cemented with the same, for want of Lime. To pass from the Town to the Suburbs of *Bega*, you go over three Stone Bridges. The Gate which answers that of *Santa Maria*, stands high, with the Image of the Virgin upon it. This Suburb contains the greatest Part of the Convents and Hospitals. There is a great one founded by *Philip the Second*, to receive the Pilgrims who go to *St. James*, and which entertains them for a Day. The Abbey of *Mille Flores*, whose Building is very stately, is not far distant. You see here in this Suburb several Gardens, which are watered with Fountains and pleasant Springs; the River serves for a Canal:

And

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And you find in a great Park, inclosed with Walls, pleasant Walks at all Times of the Year.

I would have seen the Crucifix in the *Augustines* Convent : It is placed in a Chappel of the Cloyster, large and dark enough, so that you could hardly discern it, were it not for the Lamps, which are continually burning : They are above an hundred ; some are of Gold, and others of Silver, of so extraordinary a Size, that they cover all the Vault of this Chappel : There are sixty Silver Candlesticks, of a Length, exceeding the tallest Man, and so heavy, that two Men cannot lift them : They stand on the Ground on both Sides of the Altar : Those which are upon it are of Massy Gold : You see between them two Crosses of the same, set out with precious Stones, and Crowns hanging over the Altar, adorn'd with Pearls and Diamonds of great Lustre : The Chappel is hung with Tapestry, wrought with Gold : It is so laden with rich Gifts, that there's hardly Room to put them in, so that Part of them are kept in the Treasury.

The Holy Crucifix stands on the Altar, near the Natural Bigness : It is cover'd with three Curtains one on another, all embroider'd with Pearls and Diamonds : When they open them, which is not done without

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without great Ceremony, and for Persons of Quality ; several Bells are rung ; every one falls on his Knees : And it must be granted that this Place and Sight strikes one with an awful Regard : The Crucifix is of carv'd Work, and cannot be better made ; its Carnation is very natural, it is cover'd from the Breasts to the Feet with a fine Linen, in several Folds or Plaits, which makes it look like a loose Jerkin, which, in my Opinion, is not over-agreeable.

It is commonly held, that *Nicodemus* made it ; but those who are for making every Thing miraculous, will have it brought down from Heaven, they know not how nor when. I was told, certain Monks of this Town had once stole it, and convey'd it away : But it took a convenient Time to give them the slip, and was found the next Morning in the Chappel in its usual Place : These honest People being enraged that it should serve them such a Trick, muster'd up their Forces, and violently laid Hands on't the second Time, but to as little Purpose ; for 'twould by no means stay with them : However, it works Miracles, and is one of the chief Objects of Devotion in *Spain* : The Religious tell you, it sweats every *Friday*.

I was going into my Inn, when we saw the *Sieur de Cardonne's Valet de Chambre* running

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running as fast as he could after us: He was booted, and three Friars scouring after him: I was over-rash in my Judgment; for I could not but think he had stole something rich in this Chappel, and was taken in the Fact; but his Master, who was with me, having demanded of him, what put him on such full Speed, he answer'd, he went into the Chappel of the Holy Crucifix with his Spurs on, and the Friars had kept him in Custody to get Money of him; but that he was gotten out of their Clutches, and they were now upon the hunt for him. They make it a Forfeit as well as others, for a Man to go with Spurs into these holy Places.

The Town is not very great: It is adorn'd with a spacious Place. Here are high Pillars which bear up very fine Lodgings. The Bull-Feasts are kept here; for the People are much delighted with this sort of Divertisement. There is also a very well-built Bridge, long and large: The River, which passes under it, bathes a Meadow, on the Bank of which you see Alleys of Trees which form a most delicious Walk. Trade was heretofore considerable here, but it is of late much diminish'd. The best *Castilian* is here spoken; and the Men are naturally Soldiers; so that when the King has need of them, he

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he finds here gteat Numbers, and better Men than elfewhere.

After Supper our Company fet to play, as heretofore: Don *Sancho Sanniento* was for yielding his Place to any one, pretending 'twas his Right to entertain me this Evening. I knew he had lately return'd from *Sicily*: I ask'd him, whether he had been one of those who had help'd to chastise those rebellious People? 'Alas, Madam, said he, the Marquiss *de los Navas* was sufficient to punish them beyond what their Crime deserv'd: I was at *Naples*, in the Design to pass into *Flanders*, where I have Relations of the same Name. The Marquiss *de los Veles*, Vice-Roy of *Naples*, engaged me to leave my first Project, and embark myself with the Marquiss *de los Navas*, whom the King sent into *Sicily*: We set sail in two Vessels of *Majorca*, and arriv'd at *Messina* the 6th of *January*. Having sent no Notice of his coming, and no body expecting it, he was not received with the Honours paid commonly to the Vice-Roys: But in Truth, his Intentions were so cruel against those poor People, that his Entrance should have been made with Tears.

' Scarcely was he arriv'd, but he clapp'd the two Sheriff, nam'd *Vincenzo Zuffo*, and Don *Diego*, in Prison, and put *Spaniards*

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niards in their Places: He rigorously abolished the College of Knights of the Star, and began to execute the Orders which *Gonzaga* had long received, and which he had eluded through Favour or Weakness. He immediately publish'd an Order, by which the King changed all the Form of Government of *Messina*, depriv'd the Town of its Revenues, forbid its bearing for the future the glorious Title of *Exemplary*, dissolv'd the Senate, and put six Officers into the Place of six Sheriffs, two of whom should be *Spaniards*: That these Officers should not for the future appear in publick with their Formalities; that they should no more be preceded by Drums and Trumpets, ride no more together with a Coach and four Horses, as they were wont: That they should sit henceforward on a plain Bench, should have no more Incense offered them in the Churches, go cloathed after the *Spanish* Fashion, should assemble on publick Affairs in a Chamber of the Vice-Roy's Palace, and have no longer any Jurisdiction in the Champain Country.

Every one was seized with such Consternation, as if he had been thunder-struck; but their Sorrow was much increased on the Fifth of the same Month, when the Camp-Master-General went to the Town-house, and seized all their Charters

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‘ Charters and original Copies of their Privileges, and made them be burnt publickly by the Hands of the common Hangman. The Prince *de Condro* was afterwards apprehended, to the great Grief of his Family, but particularly the Princess *Eleonora*, his Sister, whose Tears were not shed alone. The Princess is not above eighteen; her Beauty and Wit are miraculous, which astonish’d those about her.’ Don *Sancho*’s Eyes grew red at the Remembrance of this Princess; and I plainly perceived Pity had not all the Share in what he said; yet he continu’d on his Discourse to me of *Messina*.

‘ The Vice-Roy, added he, publish’d an Order, by which all the Citizens were enjoyn’d under Penalty of ten Years Imprisonment, and five thousand Crowns Fine, to bring their Arms into his Palace. He at the same Time caus’d the great Bell in the Town-house to be taken down, and beaten to Pieces in their Sight: He order’d all the Bells in the Cathedral to be melted, to make a Statue of the King of *Spain*. And the Prince of *Condro*’s Children were taken into Custody: But their Fear increas’d, when the Vice-Roy order’d *D. V. Zuffo*’s Head to be cut off. This Example of Severity alarm’d all the People; and what appear’d most terrible, was, That
‘ in

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in the late Troubles some Families of
Messinois having withdrawn themselves
into several Parts, the Marquis *de Li-*
che, the *Spanish* Embassador at *Rome*,
advised them as a Friend, to return in-
to their own Country; assuring them
all was quiet, and that a general Par-
don was already publish'd; and, for their
greater Assurance, gave them Passports.
These poor People, (who had not taken
up Arms, and being not of the Num-
ber of the Revolters, knowing their In-
nocency, could never have imagin'd they
should have been treated as Criminals) re-
turn'd to *Messina*; where they had scarce-
ly landed, but the Joy they had of see-
ing themselves in their native Country,
and in the Midst of their Friends, was
sadly disturb'd, when they were seized
on; and the next Morning, without any
Quarter, or Regard to Sex or Age, by
the Vice-Roy's Order, all hang'd. He
afterwards sent to demolish the great
Tower of *Palermo*; and the principal
Citizens of it, remonstrating against the
excessive Impositions on Corn, Silks and
other Commodities, the Marquis *de los*
Navas sent them all to the Gallies, with-
out being moved by the Tears of their
Wives, and the Need so many poor
Children might have of their Fathers.

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‘ I must acknowledge, continu’d Don
‘ *Sancho*, that my Nature is so averse to
‘ the Rigours every Day exercised on
‘ these poor People, that I could not for
‘ all the World remain any longer at *Mef-*
‘ *sina*. The Marquis *de los Navas* was
‘ for sending to *Madrid*, to inform the
‘ King of what he had done. I intreated
‘ him to charge me with this Commission :
‘ to which he consented, and gave me
‘ his Letters, which I have deliver’d to
‘ the King at *Madrid* ; and at the same
‘ Time my Intercessions for the Prince *de*
‘ *Condro* : And I presume my good Offices
‘ will not be wholly useless to him. I
‘ am persuaded, said I to him, this was
‘ the principal Motive of your Journey :
‘ I am no prying Body, but methinks you
‘ are greatly concern’d for the Interest of
‘ this Family. It’s true, Madam, conti-
‘ nu’d he, the Injustice done this unfor-
‘ tunate Prince does sensibly affect me.
‘ Were he not Brother to the Princess
‘ *Eleanora*, said I to him, perhaps you
‘ would not so much lay it to Heart ? But
‘ no more of this ; I perceive this Re-
‘ membrance afflicts you. Pray let me
‘ rather hear from you what is most re-
‘ markable in your Country. Ah ! Ma-
‘ dam, cry’d he, you insult over me ; for
‘ you must needs know, that *Galicia* is
‘ so poor and mean a Country, that there
‘ is

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' is no Place for bragging ; not but that
' the Town of *St. James de Compostella* is
' considerable enough : It is the Capital
' of the Province, and scarce one in *Spain*,
' that's superiour to it in Riches and Great-
' ness. Its Archbishoprick is worth se-
' venty thousand Crowns a Year, and the
' Chapter has as much. It stands in an
' agreeable Plain, furrounded with little
' Hills of moderate Height : And it seems
' as if Nature had placed them there to
' defend the Town from those deadly
' Blasts which arise from other Mountains.
' Here are a University, fine Palaces, state-
' ly Churches, publick Places, and an Hof-
' pital, one of the most considerable and
' best serv'd in *Europe*. It consists of two
' Courts of extraordinary Greatness, with
' Fountains in the Midst : Several Knights
' of *St. James* live in this Town, and the
' Metropolis, which is dedicated to this
' Saint, keeps his Body : It is extreme
' stately, and prodigiously rich : It is pre-
' tended you hear a kind of Clattering
' at his Tomb, as if Arms were struck
' one against another : And this Noise is
' only heard when the *Spaniards* are to
' undergo any great Loss. His Figure is
' represented on the Altar, and the Pil-
' grims thrice kiss it, and put their Hats
' on his Head ; for this is the chief Part
' of the Cereniony : They have also ano-

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‘ ther very singular one : They ascend the
 ‘ Top of the Church, which is cover’d
 ‘ with great flat Stones. In this Place
 ‘ stands a Cross of Iron, whereon the Pil-
 ‘ grims ever fasten some Rag or Scrap of
 ‘ what they wear : They pass under this
 ‘ Cross by so strait a Passage, that they
 ‘ are forced to crawl on their Bellies thro’
 ‘ it : And those who are not slender, are
 ‘ in danger of being bursted. And there
 ‘ have been some so ridiculous and su-
 ‘ perstitious, that having omitted to do
 ‘ this, they have expressly return’d back
 ‘ again three or four hundred Leagues ;
 ‘ for you see here Pilgrims of all Nations.
 ‘ Here is a *French* Chappel, of which
 ‘ great Care is taken : It is said, the
 ‘ Kings of *France* have been always great
 ‘ Benefactors to it. The Church which
 ‘ is under Ground is better than that a-
 ‘ bove ; there are stately Tombs, and
 ‘ Epitaphs of great Antiquity, which
 ‘ exercise the Wits of Travellers. The
 ‘ Archiepiscopal Palace is a vast Pile, and
 ‘ its Antiquity adds to its Beauty, instead
 ‘ of diminishing it. A Man of my Ac-
 ‘ quaintance, a great Searcher into Ety-
 ‘ mologies, assured me, the Town of *Com-*
 ‘ *postella* was so call’d, because St. *James*
 ‘ was to suffer martyrdom in the Place
 ‘ where he should see a Star appear, which
 ‘ wou’d to be *Compostella*. It is true, contin-
 ‘ ued

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‘nued he, that some pretend it to be thus:
‘But the People’s Credulity and Supersti-
‘tion carries them further; for you are
‘shew’d at *Padron* near *Compostella*, a hol-
‘low Stone; and it is pretended, this was
‘the little Boat in which St. *James* arriv’d,
‘after he had pass’d so many Seas in it;
‘which being of Stone, must have, with-
‘out a signal Miracle, sunk to the Bot-
‘tom. I suppose, said I to him, you be-
‘lieve this to be most true. He smil’d,
‘and continu’d his Discourse. I cannot
‘but give you a Description of our Mi-
‘litia: They are called together every
‘Year in the Month of *October*; and all
‘the young Men from the Age of Fif-
‘teen, are obliged to march; for should it
‘happen that a Father, or any other Re-
‘lation, should conceal his Son or Kins-
‘man, and those who are Officers should
‘come to know it, they would condemn
‘him who has so offended, to perpetual
‘Imprisonment. There have been some
‘Examples of this, but they are rare;
‘for the Peasants are so infinitely pleas’d
‘to see themselves arm’d and treated as
‘*Cavalieros* & *de Nobles Saldados del Roy*,
‘that they would not for any Conside-
‘ration be wanting to shew themselves
‘on this Occasion. You shall seldom see
‘in a whole Regiment any Soldier that
‘has more Shirts than that on his Back,

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' and the Stuff they wear, seems, by its
 ' Coarseness, to be made of Packthread;
 ' their Shoes are made of Cord: They
 ' wear no Stockings, yet every Man has
 ' his Peacock or Dunghil-Cock's Feather
 ' in his Cap, which is ty'd up behind, with
 ' a Rag about his Neck, in form of a
 ' Ruff; their Sword oftentimes hangs by
 ' their Side, ty'd with a Bit of Cord, and
 ' frequently without a Scabbard; the rest
 ' of their Arms is seldom in better Or-
 ' der: And in this Equipage they march
 ' gravely to *Tuy*, where is the general
 ' Rendezvous, it being a Frontier-Place
 ' to *Portugal*. There are three, which
 ' lie thus, the above-mention'd *Cuidad-*
 ' *Rodrigo*, and *Badajos*: But *Tuy* is the
 ' best guarded, because it is over-against
 ' *Valencia*, a considerable Town belong-
 ' ing to the King of *Portugal*, and which
 ' has been carefully fortify'd: These two
 ' Towns are so near, that their Cannon
 ' will reach each other; and if the *Por-*
 ' *tuguese* have omitted nothing to put
 ' *Valencia* out of danger of being insulted
 ' over, the *Spaniards* pretend *Tuy* is in
 ' as good a Condition to defend itself:
 ' It stands on a Hill, whose lower Part
 ' is wash'd by the River *Minbio*: It has
 ' good Ramparts; strong Walls, and good
 ' Store of Artillery. It is here, I say,
 ' where these our Champions bid Defiance
 ' to

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‘ to the King’s Enemies, and in a strut-
‘ ting Bravery declare they do not fear
‘ them. Perhaps something of this may
‘ happen in Time, for here are form’d
‘ as good Troops as in any other Part
‘ of *Spain*. However, this is a great Loss
‘ to the Kingdom, the whole Youth be-
‘ ing thus taken up; for the Lands for
‘ the most part lie untill’d; and on the
‘ Side of *St. James de Compostella*, you
‘ would think you saw a Wilderness; on
‘ that of the Ocean, the Country being
‘ better, and more Peopled, yields great
‘ Profit, and all Things necessary and con-
‘ venient, as Oranges, Lemons, and Pome-
‘ granates, several sorts of Fruits, and ex-
‘ cellent Fish, especially Pilchards, more
‘ delicate than those which come from
‘ *Rohan* to *Bordeaux*.

‘ One of the most remarkable Things,
‘ in my Mind, in this Kingdom, is the
‘ Town of *Doinse*; one Part of which
‘ always enjoys the Sweetness of the
‘ Spring, and the Fruits of Autumn, by
‘ reason of several Springs of boiling Wa-
‘ ter, which warm the Air by their Ex-
‘ halations; whilst the other Part of this
‘ same Town suffers the Rigours of the
‘ longest Winters, standing as it does at
‘ the Foot of a very cold Mountain; so
‘ that you find in the Space of one only
‘ Season,

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' Season, all those which compose the
' Course of the Year.

' You say nothing, reply'd I to him,
' of the marvellous Fountain call'd *Lou-*
' *zano*. Who have told you of it, Ma-
' dam, answer'd he? Persons that have
' seen it, added I. You have been then
' told, continu'd he, that on the Top
' of the Mountain of *Cerbret*, you find
' this Fountain at the Source of the Ri-
' ver *Lours*, which has Flux and Reflux
' as the Sea, though it be twenty Leagues
' distant from it; that the greater the
' Heats are, the more Water it casts;
' that this Water is sometimes cold as
' Ice, and sometimes as hot as if it boil'd,
' there being no natural Cause to be given
' for it. You learn me Particulars I was
' ignorant of, said I to him; and this is do-
' ing me a great Pleasure, for I want not
' for Curiosity in relation to Things un-
' common. I wish, reply'd he, 'twas not
' so late, I would give you an Account of
' several Rarities in *Spain*, and which per-
' haps you would gladly learn. I leave you
' for to Night, said I to him; but I hope
' before we come to *Madrid*, we shall have
' an Opportunity of discoursing of them.'
He very civilly made a Promise; and the
Play being ended, we bad one another
Good-night.

When

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When I would go to rest, I was led into a Gallery full of Beds, as you see in Hospitals. I said this was ridiculous, and that needing only four, what Occasion was there for shewing me forty, and to put me into such an open Place to starve me? I was answer'd, this was the best Place in the House, and I must take up with it. I caused my Bed to be made, when scarce was I laid down, but somebody knock'd softly at my Door: My Women open'd it, and were much surprized to see the Master and Mistress, follow'd by a dozen of sorry Creatures, and so cloathed, that they were half naked. I drew my Curtain at the Noise they made, and open'd more my Eyes at the Sight of this noble Company. The Mistress drew near to me, and told me, These were honest Travellers, who were coming into the Beds which remain'd empty. 'How! lie here! said I; I believe you have lost your Senses. I should have lost them indeed, reply'd she, should I let so many Beds stand empty. Either, Madam, you must pay for them, or these honest Gentlemen must lie in them.' I cannot express my Rage to you. I was in the Mind to send for Don *Fernando*, and my Knights, who would have sooner made them pass thro' the Windows than thro' the Doors: But I consider'd this could not be done without some Disturbance, and

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therefore I came to Terms, and agreed to pay 20*d.* for each Bed. They are hardly dearer at *Fontainbleau* when the Court is there. These illustrious Dons, or, to speak better, Tatterdemallions, who had the Insolence to come into my Room, immediately withdrew, having made me several profound Reverences.

The next Morning I thought to have burst with Laughter, though it was at my Cost, when I discovered mine Hostess's Trick to ruin me: For you must know, in the first Place, that these pretended Travellers were their Neighbours, and that they are accustomed to this Stratagem, when they see Strangers: But when I would have reckoned the Beds to pay for them, they were roll'd all of them into the Midst of the Gallery; there were divers wretched Troughs of Straw pull'd out, which were hardly good enough to entertain Dogs, yet I must pay for each 20*d.* Four Pistoles ended our Dispute. I was not able to put myself in a Passion, such Singularity did I find in this Management. I would not recount this little Accident to you, did it not serve to give you some Insight into the Humour of this Nation.

We set out from *Burgos* very late; the Weather was so bad, and there had fallen in the Night such great Quantity of Rain,
that

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that I tarry'd there as long as I could, in Expectation of its ceasing. In fine, I came to a Resolution, and ascended my Litter. I had not gotten far from the Town, but I repented my leaving it; no Track could be seen, especially on a very high steep Mountain, over which we must necessarily pass. One of our Mule-Drivers, who went before, struck too far on the Edge of this Mountain, so that he fell with his Mule into a kind of Precipice, where he broke his Head, and put his Arm out of Joint: This being the famous *Philip de St. Sebastian*, the most intelligent of his Profession, and who commonly carries Persons of Quality to *Madrid*, he was therefore much bemoaned; and we remained a great while before we could hale him out from the scurvy Place where he had fallen. Don *Fernando* was so compassionate as to let him have his Litter. The Night came speedily on us, and we could have comforted ourselves, could we have return'd to *Burgos*; but it was impossible, the Ways were no less cover'd with Snow on that Side, than all the rest; so that we put in at *Madrigalesco*, which has not above a dozen Houses; and I may say, we were besieged without having any Enemies. This Adventure gave us some Disturbance, tho' we had brought Provision with us for

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for several Days. The best House of the Town was half uncover'd; and I was scarce lodged there, when a venerable old Man ask'd for me on the Part of a Lady who was just arriv'd: He made me a Compliment, and told me, he was inform'd, this was the only Place where there was any tolerable Entertainment; and therefore intreated me to spare her some Room. He added, She was a Person of Quality of *Andalusia*, was lately a Widow, and that he had the Honour to belong to her.

One of our Knights, nam'd Don *Esteve de Carvaial*, who is of the same Country, fail'd not to demand her Name of the old Gentleman: He told him, she was the Marchioness *de los Rios*. At this Name he turn'd towards me, and spake to me of her as a Person whose Merit and Fortune were very considerable: I readily accepted of this good Company: She immediately came in her Litter, out of which she had not descended, having found no House where she could abide.

Her Dress seem'd to me very singular; had she not been so handsome as she was, she could never have appeared in any sort tolerable: Her Gown and Petticoat were of black Serge, and over them a kind of Linen Surplice, which reach'd down lower than her Knees; the Sleeves were long,
and

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and strait in the Arms, which hung over her Hands: This Surplice was fasten'd to her Gown, and being not plaited behind, it seem'd like a Bib: She wore on her Head a Piece of Muslin, which cover'd her Face, and one would have taken it for a Religioſe's Hood; this cover'd her Neck, and reach'd down very low: There appeared no Hair on her Head, being all hid under this Muslin: She wore a great Mantle of black Taffaty, which cover'd her Heels; and over this Mantle ſhe had a Hat, whose Brims were very large, fasten'd under her Chin with ſilken Twiſt. I was told they wear this but only when they travel.

This is the Habit of the Widows and *Duenna's*, a Dress which is insupportable to my Sight; and should one meet with a Woman in the Night thus cloath'd, one might be startled without Reproach: Yet the Lady was very beautiful in this unseemly Dress. They never leave it, unless they marry; and they are obliged to bewail the Death of a Husband whom they could not endure when living.

I was inform'd they pass the first Year of their Mourning in a Chamber hung with Black, wherein there is not the least Glimmering of Day-light to be seen; they sit cross-leg'd on a little Holland Quilt. When this Year is ended, they retire in-

to

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to a Chamber hung with grey: They must have no Pictures, nor Looking-Glasses, nor Cabinets, nor fine Tables, nor Plate; neither must they have any Diamonds, or wear any Colours: However modest they are, they must live so retir'd, that it must seem their Soul is already in the other World. This Constraint is the Cause that several Ladies who are wealthy, and especially in rich Household-Goods, marry again, to have the Satisfaction of making use of them.

After the first Compliments, I inform'd myself from this mournful Widow where she was going: She told me, she had not for a long Time seen a Friend of her Mother's who was a Religiose at *Lastuegas de Burgos*, which is a famous Nunnery; wherein there are an hundred and fifty Nuns, most of them the Daughters of Princes, Dukes, and Titulado's. She added, that the Abbess is Lady of fourteen large Towns, and above fifty other Places, wherein she chuses Governors and Magistrates; that she is Superior of seventeen Convents; collates to several Benefices, and disposes of twelve Commanderships in Favour of whom she pleases. She told me she design'd to pass some Time in this Monastery: 'Can you, Madam,' said I to her, accustom yourself to so retir'd a Life as is that of a Convent? 'It

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‘ It will be no hard Matter, said she ; for
‘ I believe, I see fewer People at my own
‘ House, than I shall see there ; and in
‘ in Effect, these Religious have Liberty
‘ enough : They are commonly the hand-
‘ somest young Women of the Family who
‘ are there : These enter in so young, that
‘ they know not what they are made
‘ to leave, nor what they undertake, at
‘ the Age of Six or Seven, and it may be
‘ sooner. They are caused to make Vows,
‘ when ’tis often the Father or Mother,
‘ or some near Relation, who pronounce
‘ them for them, whilst the little Sacri-
‘ fice disports herself with Sugar-plumbs,
‘ and lets them dress her how they will :
‘ Yet the Bargain holds ; ther’s no un-
‘ saying it : However, they have every
‘ Thing which can be expected in their
‘ Condition. There are at *Madrid* some
‘ whom they call *the Ladies of St. James* :
‘ They are properly Canonesses, who
‘ make their Trials like the Knights of
‘ this Order ; they bear, like them, a
‘ Sword made in form of a Cross, embroi-
‘ dered with Crimson Silk ; they have them
‘ on their Scapularies and great Cloaks,
‘ which are white : These Ladies Houses
‘ are very stately ; all who come to visit
‘ them, enter without any Difficulty ; their
‘ Apartments are very fine, and every Whit
‘ as well furnish’d, as if they were at large
‘ in

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‘ in the World: They enjoy great Pen-
‘ sions, and each of them has three or
‘ four Women to wait on them. It’s true,
‘ they never stir out, nor see their nearest
‘ Relations, but thro’ several Grates. This
‘ perhaps would look horrid in another
‘ Country, but in *Spain* they are accusom’d
‘ to Confinement.

‘ There are Convents where the Reli-
‘ gious see more Cavaliers than the Wo-
‘ men who live at large; neither are they
‘ less gallant: It is impossible for any to
‘ have more Gaiety than they; and, as
‘ I have already told you, Madam, here
‘ are more Beauties than abroad: But it
‘ must be granted, there are several among
‘ them who are deeply sensible at their
‘ having been so soon sacrificed; they
‘ think of the Pleasures which they have
‘ never tasted, as the only ones which
‘ can make this Life happy. They pass
‘ theirs in a Condition worthy of Com-
‘ passion; always telling you they are kept
‘ by Force; and that the Vows they are
‘ made to repeat at the Age of five or six
‘ Years, are to be regarded like Children’s
‘ Plays.

‘ Madam, said I to her, ’twould have
‘ been great Pity had your Relations de-
‘ sign’d you for such a Life; and one may
‘ judge, in beholding you, that all the
‘ beautiful *Spanish* Ladies are not Religio-
‘ ses.

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'ses. Alas, Madam ! said she in fetching
'a deep Sigh, I know not what I would
'be ; it seems I am of a very odd Hu-
'mour, not to be contented with my For-
'tune ; but one has sometimes Uneasinesses
'which are unaccountable to Reason.'

In ending these Words, she fasten'd her Eyes on the Ground, and fell into such a deep Fit of Musing, that I could easily perceive something disturb'd her.

Whatever Curiosity I had to know the Subject, we had been so little Time together, that I dared not desire to be her Confidant ; but to draw her from the melancholy Posture she was in, I entreated her to tell me some News of the Court of *Spain*, seeing she came from *Madrid*. She did what she could to recover herself. She then told me, there were great Shews of Joy at Court on the Queen's Birth-Day : That the King had sent one of the Gentlemen of his Chamber to *Toledo*, to compliment her from him. Yet these fine Appearances hinder'd not the Marquils *de Mansera*, the Queen's *Major-Domo*, from receiving Orders to retire twenty Leagues from the Court, which had greatly mortify'd this Princess. She inform'd us, That the Fleet which carry'd Troops to *Galicia* was unhappily cast away on the Coasts of *Portugal* : That the little Dutchess *de Terra Nova* was to espouse Don *Nicoli Pignatella*,
Prince

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Prince *de Monteleon*, her Uncle: That the Marquiss *de Leganez* had refused the Vice-Royalty of *Sardinia*, being in love with a fine Lady, whom he could not find in his Heart to leave: That Don *Carlos de Omodei*, Marquiss *de Almanazid*, was dangerously ill, at his Disappointment of being admitted a Grandee of *Spain*; to which he pretended, having marry'd the Heiress of the House and Grandeurship of *Castel Rodrigue*. And that which most sensibly afflicted him was, that Don *Adriel de Gusman*, this Lady's first Husband, had enjoy'd this Honour: So that he could not but look on the Difficulties thrown in his Way, as a slighting of his Person. ' In Truth, Madam, ' said I to her, I can hardly comprehend ' how a Man of Sense can with such Eagerness pursue, and be so greatly dejected ' at a Disappointment of this Nature. We ' are otherwise affected in *Spain*, reply'd ' the beautiful Widow, and this Instance is ' a Proof of it.'

Don *Frederick de Cardonne*, who greatly interested himself for the Duke *de Medina Celi*, ask'd her News of him: ' The King, ' said she, has lately made him President ' of the *Indies*. The Queen-Mother has ' wrote to the King, on the Report which ' runs that he is about marrying, that ' she is surprized Things are already gone ' so far, and he has not acquainted her ' with

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‘ with them. She adds in her Letter, she
‘ advised him in the mean time, whilst all
‘ Things were ready for this Ceremony,
‘ to make a Journey to *Catalonia* and *Ar-*
‘ *ragon*. Don *John* of *Austria* sufficiently
‘ understands the Necessity of this ; and he
‘ presses the King to depart, to content
‘ these People, in promising by Oath, ac-
‘ cording as is customary to new Kings,
‘ to maintain all their antient Privileges.
‘ Have then, Madam, said I to her, in-
‘ terrupting her, the *Arragonois* any other
‘ Privileges than the *Castilians* ? Very par-
‘ ticular ones, reply’d she ; and you being
‘ a Stranger, I believe you will be willing
‘ to let me inform you of them.’ Here is
what I learn’d.

The Daughter of Count *Julien*, nam’d
Cava, was one of the most beautiful La-
dies in the World. King *Rodrigue* became
so passionately in love with her, that
his Affections knowing no Bounds, trans-
ported him beyond all Measure. The Fa-
ther, who was then in *Africa*, inform’d
of the Outrage done his Daughter, who
breath’d nothing but Revenge, treated
with the *Moors*, * and supply’d ’em with
the

* This happen’d in 714, after the Battle of St. Mar-
tin, wherein D. Rodrigue lost his Life: Others say he
fled into Portugal, and dy’d in a Town there, call’d
Viscii.

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the Means to enter into *Spain*, and to make there, for sundry Ages, all those Ravages set forth at large in History.

The *Arragonois* were the first who shook off the Yoke of these *Barbarians*; and finding no more among them any Princes of the Race of the *Gothick* Kings, they agreed to elect one, and cast their Eyes on a Lord of the Country, call'd *Garci Ximinez*: But they being Masters, resolved to impose Laws on him; and he thinking himself sufficiently happy, that he might rule over them under any Condition, these People therefore confin'd him within narrow Bounds.

They agreed, That as soon as their Monarch should break thro' any of their Laws, he should immediately forfeit his Power, and they be at full Liberty to chuse another, tho' he were a Pagan: And to hinder him from violating their Privileges, and to defend themselves against him, they establish'd a Sovereign Magistrate, whom they call'd the *Justicia*, whose Office was to observe the Conduct of the King, the Judges and the People; and the Power of a Sovereign being likely to awe a mere Individual, to assure the *Justicia* in the Execution of his Office; they ordered, that he should not suffer either in his Person or Goods, but by a full Assembly of the States, which they call *Las Cortes*.

They

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They moreover provided, That if the King should oppress any one of his Subjects, the great and considerable Men of the Kingdom might assemble themselves, and hinder his receiving any of his Revenues, till the Innocent was acquitted, and re-establish'd in his former Rights. And to make *Garci Ximenez* timely sensible of the Power this Man had over him, they set him on a kind of Throne, and made the King to kneel down bare-headed before him, to receive from him his Oath of keeping their Privileges. This Ceremony ended, they acknowledge him their Sovereign, but in an odd and disrespectful Manner: for instead of promising him Fidelity and Obedience, they say to him, *We, who are as good Men as yourself, make you our King and Governor, on Condition you preserve to us our Rights and Properties, otherwise we disacknowledge you.*

The King (*Don Pedro*) coming to the Crown, in Process of Time disrelish'd this Custom as unworthy of the Regal State; and it so greatly disgusted him, that by his Authority and Entreaties, and the Offers he made of bestowing several notable Privileges on the Kingdom, he procur'd the Abolishment of this in an Assembly of the States: He got this general Consent in Writing, which was presented him. As soon as he had the Parchment,

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ment, he drew out his Dagger, and pierced his Hand with it, saying, *'Twas fit a Law which gave Subjects the Liberty of chusing their Sovereign, should be effaced with their Sovereign's Blood.* His Statue is still seen in the Deputation-Hall of *Saragossa*: He holds a Dagger in one Hand, and the Charter in the other. The late Kings have not been such religious Observers of their Privileges as the first.

But there is a Law still in Force, and which is very singular; and this they call *The Law of Manifestation*; which is, That if an *Arragonois* had Wrong done him in Judgment, to the Value of 500 Crowns, he may bring his Cause before the *Justicia*, who is obliged, after an exact Inquisition, to punish him who has given a wrong Sentence: And if he fails therein, the oppress'd Person may have Recourse to the States of the Kingdom, who assemble and nominate five Persons of their Body, which is to say, of the prime Nobility, the Ecclesiasticks, the Gentry and Commonalty: They appoint three out of the first Rank, and one from each of the others. But it is observable, they chuse the most ignorant to judge the most able Men in the Gown, either to disgrace 'em the more for their Fault, or, as they alledge, *That Justice should be so clear, that the very Plow-Men, and those who understand the*
least,

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least, should discern it without the Help of Oratory. It is likewise affirm'd, that the Judges tremble when they pronounce a Sentence, fearing lest it turn against themselves, to the Loss of their Lives or Estates, should they commit the least Fault therein, either willfully, or through Inadvertency. It were well if this Custom were observ'd in all Kingdoms; but this is rather to be wish'd than expected.

Yet what is no less singular, is, that Justice remains always Sovereign; and tho' the unjust Judge be punish'd severely for his wrong Decree, yet it subsists in its full Force, and is fully executed: If then any unhappy Wretch be sentenced to Death, he is not spared, tho' his Innocency be discover'd, and made as clear as Noon-Day; but his Judges are executed too before his Face; which in my Mind is a poor Consolation. If the Judge accused has justly perform'd his Office, the Plaintiff leaves the 500 Crowns which he had consign'd. But were he to lose 100000 Crowns of annual Revenue by the Sentence he complains of, the Sentence or Decree remains good, and the Judge is only condemn'd to pay him likewise 500 Crowns: The rest of the Judge's Estate is forfeited to the King; which is in my Opinion another Point of Injustice: For, in fine, he ought, above all others,
to

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to have Recompence made him, who suffers by a wrong Sentence.

These same People have another Custom, to distinguish by the Punishment the Crime committed. For Example, a Cavalier, who has kill'd another in a Duel (for they are here strictly forbid) has his Head cut off before ; and he that has assassinated, has his cut off behind. This is to distinguish him who has behav'd himself like a brave Man, from him that kills you treacherously.

She added, that to speak in general of the *Arragonois*, they have a natural Pride, which is hard to be suppress'd : But likewise to do them justice, there are People of brave Minds to be found among them ; insomuch that they are easily discern'd from all the rest of the King of *Spain's* Subjects : That they have never wanted great Men, from their first King to *Ferdinand* : That they counted such a great Number of them as would scarce be believ'd : However, they have greatly recommended themselves by their Valour and Conduct : That as to the rest, their Country was so little fruitful, that excepting some Valleys, which were watered by Channels whose Water came from the *Ebre* ; the rest were so dry and sandy, that you meet with scarce any Thing else but stony and parch'd-up Places : That *Saragossa*

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gossa is a great City; the Houses finer than at *Madrid*; the publick Places adorn'd with Arches: That the Holy Street, where the Courses are run, is so long and large, as may make it pass for a great and vast Place, having several Great Men's Palaces in it; that of *Castelmorato* being one of the pleasantest: That the Vault of *St. Francis's Church* was very curious; for, being of extraordinary Largeness, yet 'tis upheld by no Pillars: That the City is not strong, but the Inhabitants so stout, that it needed no Walls; that it has never a Fountain; which is one of its greatest Defects: That the *Ebre* carried no Boats, the River being full of dangerous Rocks. As to the rest, the Archbishoprick was worth 60000 Crowns a Year: That the Vice-Royalty brought in no Revenue, being a Place of Honour, fit only for great Lords to bear the Expence of it, to maintain their Ranks, and keep the People under, who are naturally fierce and imperious, not affable to Strangers, and so little desirous of making Acquaintance, that they chuse rather to stay at Home alone all their Life-time, than stir out to procure Friendships: That here is a severe Inquisition, who have a stately Palace, and a most rigid Court of Justice: yet this does not hinder great Troops of Robbers, call'd *Bandoleros*, from ravaging.

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and dispersing themselves over all *Spain*; who give no Quarter to Travellers, snatching up sometimes Women of Quality, whom they afterwards set at Ransom for their Parents to redeem; but when they are handsome, they keep them: And this is the greatest Misfortune can happen to 'em, being forced to spend their Days with the worst of Men, who keep them in dreadful Caves, or carry them along with them on horseback, being furiously jealous of them. One of their Captains having been lately set upon by Soldiers sent into the Mountains to seize on him, was mortally wounded, having his Mistress with him, who was of the Marquis *de Camaraza*, a Grandee of *Spain's* Family. When she saw him in this Condition, she thought only of making use of this favourable Opportunity of saving herself; which he perceiving, dying as he was, he catch'd hold of her Hair, and struck his Dagger into her Breast; being not willing, said he, that another should possess a Treasure which had been so dear to him. And this is what himself acknowledg'd to the Soldiers who found him, and saw this sad Spectacle.

The beautiful Marchioness here held her Peace; and I return'd her all due Thanks for the Favour she did me, in informing me of these Curiosities; and of which, perhaps,

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haps, without her, I might have been ignorant all my Life. ' I do not think, Madam, said she to me, you owe me so much Thanks; I rather fear the having deserv'd Reproaches for so long and tiresome a Conversation.

I would not let her leave me to eat elsewhere; and I obliged her to lie with me, she having no Bed. So civil and courteous a Proceeding made her much my Friend. She assured me of this in such affectionate Terms, that I could not doubt of it; for, I must tell you, the *Spanish* Women are more caressing than we, and are far more kind and tender to those they profess Friendship for. In fine, I could not forbear telling her, That if she had all the Kindness for me she made profession of, she must be so complaisant to inform me what made her seem so melancholy: That I had heard her fetch deep Sighs in the Night, and appear'd very restless and disconsolate: That if she could find any Comfort in sharing her Grief with me, I offer'd my Service to her, as a most faithful Friend. She embraced me with great Affection, and told me without Delay, she would immediately satisfy my Curiosity; which she did in these Terms:

' Seeing you are so desirous to know me, I must, without disguising to you any Thing, acknowledge my Weakness to

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' you ; and, by my Sincerity and Open-
' heartedness, deserve a Curiosity as obliging
' as yours.

I come not of such a Family as may claim Nobility ; my Father's Name was *Davila* : He was only a Banker ; but he was in good Credit, and was moderately wealthy : We are of *Seville*, Capital of *Andalusia*, and we have ever dwelt there. My Mother knew the World ; she saw many People of Quality ; and having no Children but me, she took great Care of my Education : It did not appear ill bestow'd on me ; for I had the Fortune to get the Good-will of most that saw me.

We had two Neighbours who came often to our House, who were welcome both to my Father and Mother. Their Condition and Age were in no sort alike : One was the Marquis *de los Rios*, a Person wealthy and noble ; he was a Widower, and well advanced in Years : The other was the Son of a great Merchant who traded to the *Indies* : He was young and handsome ; he had Wit, and a very graceful Behaviour ; his Name was *Mendez* : He was not long before he fell passionately in love with me ; so that he omitted nothing which might please me, and gain my Affections.

He

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He was in all Places where he knew I was to pass; he spent whole Nights under my Windows, to sing Verses which he had composed and set to my Praise; which he had very well accompanied with his Harp.

But seeing his Attendances had not all the Effect he expected, and having passed some Time in this Manner, without daring to mention his Affection to me, he at length resolv'd to make use of the first Occasion to acquaint me with it. I avoided him ever since I had a Conversation with one of my Friends who had more Experience and Knowledge of the World than I. I had felt, that *Mendez's* Company gave me Joy, and that my Heart had an Emotion for him which it had not for others: That when his Affairs, or our Visits, hinder'd him from seeing me, I grew restless; and loving this young Woman above others, and being as dear to her, she observed I was not so free and gay as I was wont, and that my Eyes were sometimes attentively fix'd on *Mendez*. One Day, when she rally'd with me about it, I said to her very innocently, ' My dear *Henrietta*, define to me the ' Sentiments I have for *Mendez*: I know ' not whether I ought to be afraid of ' them, and whether I ought not to defend myself from them. I feel I know

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‘not what fort of Trouble and Pleasure
 ‘arising in my Breast.’ She began to
 laugh; she embraced me, and said to me,
 ‘My dear Heart, you are in love. Who,
 ‘I in love? reply’d I, in Amaze: You
 ‘joke with me; I neither am, nor will be
 ‘be in love. This depends not always
 ‘on us, continu’d she, with a more serious
 ‘Air, our Stars decide this before our
 ‘Hearts. But, in earnest, what is it so
 ‘much startles you? *Mendez* is in a Con-
 ‘dition equal to yours; he deserves well,
 ‘is a good comely Man, and, if his Affairs
 ‘go on with the same Success as they have
 ‘done hitherto, you may live very happi-
 ‘ly with him. And whence should I
 ‘learn, apply’d I, interrupting her, that he
 ‘will be happy with me, and that he so
 ‘much as thinks this? O take my Word
 ‘for it, answer’d she, whatever he has
 ‘done has its Designs; for Men are not
 ‘wont to pass Nights under Windows,
 ‘and the Days in following a Person for
 ‘whom they have nothing but Indiffe-
 ‘rency.’

After some Discourse of this Nature, she
 left me; and I resolved, maugre the Re-
 pugnance I felt in me, to give *Mendez*
 no Opportunity in speaking to me in par-
 ticular.

But one Night, as I was walking in
 the Garden, he came towards me: I was
 perplex’d

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perplex'd to see myself alone with him ; and he had the Opportunity of observing it in my Countenance, and in the Manner after which I received him. This could not divert him from the Design he had of entertaining me : ' How happy ' am I, Madam, said he, to find you alone ? But, do I call myself happy ! perhaps I know not what I say ; for it may be, you will not receive a Secret with which I would entrust you. I am as yet so young, said I to him blushing, that I would advise you to say nothing to me, unless you would have me impart it to my Companions. Alas ! continue he, should I tell you I adore you ; that all my Happiness depends on the Inclinations you have towards ; that I cannot live without some Certainty ; that I may one Day please you ; will you tell this to your Companions ? No, said I to him in great Perplexity, I would look on this Confidence as a Raillery, and not believing it myself, I would not hazard its being left to be believ'd by others.'

We were interrupted as I ended these Words ; and he appeared to me not over content with the Answer I made him ; and awhile after he found an Opportunity to reproach me with it.

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I could not but give a favourable Ear to the Inclinations I had towards him; every Thing he told me seem'd to me to have its particular Gracefulness: And it was no hard Matter for him to persuade me, that he loved me above all Things in the World. In the mean time, the Marquis *de los Rios* took such a liking to me, and my Person and Behaviour ran so deeply in his Thoughts, that he wholly apply'd himself to please me. He was very nice and cautious; he could not resolve with himself to owe me wholly to my Parents Authority: He well knew they would receive, as an Honour, the Intentions he had for me; but he was for gaining my Consent before he demanded theirs.

In this Design, he said all to me he thought was like to take with me. I answer'd him, I should always think it an indispensable Duty to obey my Father: yet our Ages were so different, that I told him, I thought it were better he left off thinking of me; that I should have an everlasting Acknowledgment for the advantageous Intentions he had for me; and therefore I would esteem him, tho' I could not love him. Having heard what I had said, he was some Time without speaking: And immediately taking up a very generous Resolution, 'Lovely Mariana, said
' he,

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‘ he, you might have made me the happiest Man in the World ; and if you
‘ were ambitious, I had wherewith to satisfy you : But you refuse me, and desire to be another’s : I consent to it : I
‘ love you too well to be in suspense, whether you are to be satisfy’d, or I ; I
‘ therefore wholly sacrifice my Happiness to you, and leave you for ever.’ In ending these Words, he left me, and appear’d so afflicted, that I could not forbear being concern’d.

Mendez arriv’d awhile after, and found me melancholy : He was so earnest with me to know the Cause, that I could not deny him this Proof of my Complaisance. Any one but he would have had a sensible Obligation at the Exclusion I came from giving his Rival : But far from seeming to value it, he told me, he saw in my Eyes the Regret I had for a Lover who could place me in another Sort of Rank than he was able, and that my Proceeding was very cruel. In vain I endeavour’d to make him sensible of the Injustice of his Pretensions ; but all I could say could not hinder him from charging me with Inconstancy. I remain’d vex’d and surpriz’d at this his Way of dealing, and was several Days without speaking to him.

He, in fine, at last understood he had no Reason to complain ; he came to me,

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begg'd my Pardon, and testify'd to me a great Displeasure at his own Jealousy: He excus'd himself as all Lovers do, on the Strength of his Passion. I had so much Weakness, as to be willing to forget the Trouble he had given me; we made up the Matter between us, and he continu'd his Courtship.

His Father having understood the Passion he had for me, thought he could not procure him a more advantageous Marriage; he took notice of it to him, and came afterwards to my Father, to open to him the Proposal: They had been long Friends, he was favourably heard, and they easily agreed on the Matter.

Mendez came to inform me of the News, with such Transport, as would have seem'd ridiculous to any other than a Mistress. My Mother order'd me to look kindly on him, telling me, this Affair would be advantageous to me; and as soon as the *India* Fleet should arrive, wherein he was greatly concern'd, the Marriage should be concluded.

Whilst Matters thus pass'd, the Marquis *de los Rios* had retir'd to one of his Country-Houses, where he scarcely saw any one. He led a languishing Life; he still lov'd me, but hinder'd himself from telling me so, and from comforting himself by this innocent Remedy.

In

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In fine, his Body could not resist the Heaviness of his Mind ; he fell dangerously ill, and being told by the Physicians there was no Hope of his Recovery, he pluck'd up his Spirits to write to me in the most affectionate Letter imaginable, and sent at same Time to me a Deed of Gift of all his Estate in case he dy'd. My Mother was in my Chamber when a Gentleman presented this Packet from him ; she would know what it contain'd.

I could not forbear at the same Time telling her what had pass'd ; and we were both of us in the greatest Surprise at the Marquis's extreme Generosity. She sent him word, That I should go with the Family, to thank him for a Liberality which I had no ways deserv'd. And in particular, she sharply reprehended me for having made a Mystery of a Thing to her, with which I ought to have immediately acquainted her. I threw myself at her Feet, I excus'd myself the best I could, and testify'd such great Sorrow for having displeas'd her, that she easily pardon'd me. Leaving my Chamber, she went to my Father ; and having told him all which had pass'd, they resolv'd the next Morning to go see the Marquis, and to carry me with 'em.

I acquainted *Mendez* with this in the Evening, and the Fear I had left my Parents

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rents should, in fine, make me marry this old Man, if he chanced to recover from his Sickness. However sensible I appear'd to him of this, he was so far transported, and reproach'd me so greatly with it, that I must have lov'd him as much as I did, not to have broke off with him : But he had such an Ascendant over me, tho' he was the unjustest of all Men, yet I thought him the most reasonable.

We were at the Marquis *de los Rios's* : His Country-House was not above two Leagues from *Seville* : Dying, as he was, he received us with such Joy as was easily observable. My Father testify'd to him his Grief to see him in so low a Condition ; thank'd him for the Donation he made me, and assur'd him, if he could find a fair and just Pretence, he would break off with *Mendez*, to whom he had engag'd his Word : That should this happen, he promis'd him solemnly, I should be nobody's but his. He received this Assurance in the same manner as if he had receiv'd a perfect Felicity ; but he knew well the Anguish I conceived thereat : I became pale ; my Eyes were cover'd with Tears ; and when we were about leaving him, he desired me to draw near to him : He told me with a languishing Tone ; ' Fear nothing, *Mariana*, I love you too well to displease you : You shall have *Mendez*,
seeing

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‘ seeing your Affections are engag’d to him.
‘ I answer’d him, I had no particular Inclinations for him ; but being commanded
‘ to respect him as a Man who was to
‘ be my Husband, I could not do otherwise : However, I entreated him to be
‘ well.

This seem’d to me the least Step I could take towards a Person to whom I had so great Obligations. He appear’d thereat sufficiently satisfy’d, attempting to take my Hand and kiss it : ‘ Remember, said he to me, you enjoin me to live ; and
‘ that my Life being your Work, you will
‘ be obliged to conserve it.’ We return’d at Night, and the impatient *Mendez* waited for us, to make me new Reproaches : I took ’em, as I was wont, as Proofs of his Passion : And having justify’d myself, I asked him what News there was of the Fleet ? ‘ Alas ! said he to me, my Father
‘ has received such as drives me into Despair ; I dare not inform you. Have you
‘ any Thing separate from me, said I to him, looking tenderly on him ? would
‘ you have me to be reserv’d to you ? I
‘ am too happy, reply’d he, in that you
‘ have such favourable Dispositions ; and
‘ being not able to keep any Secret from
‘ you, I must plainly tell you, that the
‘ Galeon, in which is our whole Estate,
‘ is split and lost, running against a Rock.
‘ But

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‘ But I should be less sensible how greatly
 ‘ soever I am interested, did I not look
 ‘ on the unhappy Consequences of this Loss:
 ‘ your Presence will restore the Marquis
 ‘ *de los Rios* to his Health ; his Senti-
 ‘ ments for you are known in your Fa-
 ‘ mily ; he is rich, and a great Lord : I
 ‘ am become miserable ; and if you for-
 ‘ sake me, my dear *Mariana*, I shall
 ‘ have no more Hope, but in speedy
 ‘ Death.’ I was pierced with Sorrow
 at this sad News : I took one of his
 Hands, and closing it with mine, I said
 to him, ‘ My dear *Mendez*, do not think
 ‘ me capable of loving you, and yet lea-
 ‘ ving you, by the Effects of your good or
 ‘ bad Fortune ; if you be able to bear up
 ‘ against it, believe me so too. I call Hea-
 ‘ ven to Witness, continu’d I, provided
 ‘ you love me and be faithful to me,
 ‘ that I will never forsake you ; and let it
 ‘ it punish me, if ever I prove incon-
 ‘ stant.’

He testify’d all the Acknowledgments
 he ow’d to me for such affectionate Assuran-
 ces ; and we resolv’d not to divulge this
 Accident.

I withdrew very melancholy, and shut
 myself up in my Closet, ruminating on
 the Consequences of this sad Disaster.
 I was still there, when I heard some
 body knocking softly at the Shutters
 of

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of my Window ; I drew near, and saw *Mendez* by the Light of the Moon. ‘ What
‘ do you here, said I to him, at this Time
‘ of the Night ? Alas ! answer’d he to me,
‘ I was trying whether I could speak with
‘ you before I departed. My Father has
‘ again lately receiv’d News of the Galeon,
‘ and will have me immediately go where
‘ she is run aground, to endeavour to save
‘ something : It is a great Way thither,
‘ and I shall be a great while without
‘ seeing you. Ah ! dear *Mariana* ! during
‘ all this Time, will you be as good as
‘ your Word to me ? May I hope my dear
‘ Mistress will be faithful to me ? What
‘ Reason have I given you, *Mendez*, said
‘ I, interrupting him, to doubt it ? Yes,
‘ continu’d I, I will love you, tho’ the most
‘ unfortunate Man in the World.

It would be to abuse your Patience, *Madam*, to relate to you whatsoever we said in this doleful Separation ; and tho’ there appear’d no Danger, yet our Hearts had a Foreboding of what was afterwards to happen to us. The Day began to appear, and we must bid adieu. I saw him shed Tears, which were accompany’d with mine.

I threw myself on my Bed, rolling a thousand sad Thoughts in my Mind ; and I appear’d the next Morning so out of Order, that my Father and Mother were
afraid

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afraid I was falling into some dangerous Fit of Sicknefs.

Mendez's Father came to make them a Visit, to excuse his Son's parting without taking his Leave of them. He added, he had a Business which requir'd such Haste, as would not suffer him a Minute's Time at his Disposol. As to myself, Madam, I was comfortless, being insensible to every Thing. And if any Thing could ease me, 'twas some Hours Conversation with my dear *Henrietta*, with whom I freely vented mo Thoughts touching the long Absence of *Mendez*.

In the mean Time the *Marquiss de los Rios* was out of Danger, and my Father went often to see him. I observ'd one Day a great Alteration in my Mother's Countenance, she and my Father having been long shut up by the Religiofoes, who came to give them a Visit; and after a Conference of some Time, they call'd me, without my being able to divine the Cause.

I enter'd into their Apartment in such Disorder, that I knew not what I did. One of these good Fathers, venerable by his Age and Habit, spoke much to me about the Resignation we owe to the Divine Will, and his Providence, in every Thing which relates to us: And the Close of his Discourse was, that *Mendez* was
taken

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taken by the *Algerines*, that he was a Slave ; and by his Misfortunes, these Pirates had learn'd he was a rich Merchant's Son, which had occasion'd the setting him at an extraordinary Ransom : That they were at *Algiers* at the Time he arriv'd ; they would willingly have brought him along with them, but the Money which they had for all, was not sufficient for him alone : That at their Return they had been at his Father's, to inform him of this vexatious Disaster, but found that he had absented himself : That the Loss of a Galeon, on which were embark'd all his Effects, without being able to save any Thing, had induced him to avoid his Creditors, who sought him every where, to throw him into Prison : That Things being in this Condition, they saw no Remedy to poor *Mendez's* Misfortunes, being in the Hands of *Meluza*, the most famous and covetous of all the *Corfsairs* : And that if I would follow their Advice, and that of my Parents, I would think of taking another Party. I had so far heard this dreadful News in so extatick a Condition, that I could only interrupt them by sad Sighs : But when he told me I must think of another Party, I burst out so with Tears and Shrieks, as made both my Father and Mother, and these Religiofoes compassionate me.

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I was carry'd into my Chamber as one nearer Death than Life ; and Donna *Henrietta* was sent for, and it was not without great Affliction she beheld me in this sad Condition. I fell into a most deep Melancholy, I tormented myself Day and Night, and nothing was able to remove my dear *Mendez* out of my Mind.

The Marquis *de los Rios* having learn'd what had pass'd, conceiv'd such strong Hopes, that he soon found himself in a Condition to come and claim of my Father and me the Effect of the Promises we had given him. I shew'd him that mine were not disengag'd in respect of *Mendez* ; that tho' he was unfortunate, it no ways lessen'd my Engagements to him. He heard me without being persuaded by me, and told me, I had the same Desire of destroying myself, as others had of saving themselves ; that 'twas more my Interest than his, which made him act as he did. And being ravish'd with having a Pretence which seem'd to him plausible, he press'd my Father with such Earnestness, that he at length consented to what he desir'd.

It is impossible for me to represent to you, Madam, in what an Abyss of Sorrow I was in. ' What is become, my Lord, ' said I to the Marquis, of that scrupulous Tendernefs which hinder'd you from ' taking my Heart from any other Hand ' than

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' than my own? Let me, at least, have
' some Time to forget *Mendez*: Perhaps
' his Absence and Misfortunes may prevail
' on me to some Indifferency towards him.
' To this cruel Accident, which has snatch'd
' him so lately from me, you add new Trou-
' bles, when you expect I should so speedily
' pass over from him to you.

' I know not what I expect, or may
' hope for, said he to me, but this I am sure
' of, that my Complaisance had like to have
' cost me my Life: that if you be not de-
' sign'd for me, you will be another's: And
' as to *Mendez*, his Fortune is such, that
' he can no longer pretend to you; and
' seeing you must be disposed of, I
' think you are very hard-hearted to re-
' fuse me. You cannot be ignorant of
' what I have done hitherto to please you;
' my former Proceeding should serve as
' a sufficient Testimony of my future Re-
' spects.'

The Marquis made a greater Progress
in my Father's Mind than in mine. In
a Word, my Mother having one Day sent
for me, told me, 'Twas to no Purpose to
use any longer Delays, my Father being re-
solved I should obey his Orders. What-
ever I could say to excuse myself, my Tears,
my Remonstrances, Intreaties, were all to no
Purpose, and serv'd only to exasperate my
Mother.

All

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All Things necessary were prepared for my Marriage; the Marquis would have every Thing suitable to his Quality: He sent me a Cabinet of Jewels and precious Stones, to the Value of several thousand Crowns. The fatal Day for our Wedding was set. Seeing myself reduced to this Extremity, I took a Resolution which will surprize you, Madam, and demonstrate a great Passion.

I went to Donna *Henrietta* (this Friend had been ever faithful to me) and threw myself at her Feet, surprizing her by so extraordinary a Carriage: 'My dear *Henrietta*, said I to her, melting in Tears, 'there is no Remedy to my Misfortunes, 'unless you have pity on me. Do not 'abandon me, let me conjure you, in the 'sad Condition I am in: To-morrow I 'must marry the Marquis *de los Rios*; I 'can no longer avoid it. If the Offers of 'Friendship you have made me be Proof 'against all Trial, and can make you capable of a generous Resolution, you will 'not refuse to follow my Fortune, and to 'accompany me to *Algiers* to pay *Mendez* 'his Ransom, and to redeem him from the 'cruel Slavery he is in. You see me at 'your Feet, continu'd I; I will never rise 'till you have given me your Word to do 'what I desire you.' She seem'd so concern'd at my Posture, that I arose to
make

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make her answer me. She immediately embraced me with great Testimonies of Tendernefs : ‘ I will refuse you nothing, my dear *Mariana*, said she to me, were it my very Life ; but you are going to ruin yourself, and me with you. How can two Girls execute what you project ? Our Age, our Sex, and your Beauty, will expose us to Accidents, the bare Imagination of which makes me tremble : This is certain, we are going to overwhelm our Families with Shame and Confusion ; and if you had made serious Reflections hereon, it is not possible you could have come to this Resolution. Ah ! Barbarous Creature ! cry’d I, and more barbarous than he that detains my Lover : You forsake me ! But tho’ I am alone, yet that shall not hinder me from pursuing my Point ; neither can the Assistance you should give me, stand me in much Stead : Remain, remain, I consent ; it is fit I should depart without any Comfort, to confront all Dangers : I confess such an Undertaking is fit only for a desperate Creature.’

My Reproaches and Tears mov’d *Henrietta* : She told me my Interest had oblig’d her as much as her own, to speak to me as she had done : But in short, seeing I persisted in my first Resolution, and nothing could divert me from it, she was resolv’d

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resolv'd I should not go alone ; that if I would be ruled by her, we should disguise ourselves ; that we should undertake to get two Suits of Men's Apparel ; and as for the rest, it belong'd to me to take care of it. I embraced her with a thousand Testimonies of Thankfulness.

I afterwards ask'd her, whether she had seen the Jewels which the Marquis had sent me ? ' I will bring them, said I to her, to purchase *Mendez's* Ransom with ' them.' We resolved to lose no Time ; and we neither of us fail'd in what we had projected.

Never were two Maidens better disguised under the Habits of two Cavaliers. We parted that Night, and embark'd ourselves without the least Obstacle ; but after some Days Sail, we were overtaken by so violent a Storm, as made us despair of our Safety. In all this Disorder and Peril, I was less concern'd for myself, than for not having compassed my dear *Mendez's* Liberty, and for having engag'd *Henrietta* to follow my ill Fortune.

' It is, said I to her, in embracing her, it ' is I, my dear Companion, that has raised ' this Storm ; were I not on the Sea, it ' would be calm : My Misfortune follows me where-ever I go.' In fine, we having been a Day and two Nights in continual

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tinual Alarms, the Weather chang'd, and we arriv'd at *Algiers*.

I was so glad to see myself in a Condition to deliver *Mendez*, that I reckon'd all the Dangers we underwent as nothing: But alas! what became of me in disembarking, when, after all the Search which could be made, I perceived there was no Hope of finding the little Cabinet, wherein I had put all I had that was most precious? I found myself seized with such violent Grief, that I thought I should have expired before I got out of the Vessel. Without doubt this Cabinet, which was little, and of which I took but small Care during the Tempest, fell into the Sea, or was stole; which ever of these two it was, I had a considerable Loss, and I had only remaining, Jewels to the Value of a thousand Pounds, which I had kept for all Events, about me.

I resolv'd with this to make a Trial with *Mendez's* Patron: As soon as we were in the Town, we enquir'd out his House, (for *Meluza* was well known) and went thither clad like Gentlemen.

I cannot express to you, Madam, the Trouble I was in on drawing near this House, where I knew my dear Lover languish'd in Chains: What sad Reflections did I not make? How did I look when I enter'd the Corsair's House, and saw *Mendez*

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dez chain'd, with several others, who were leading out to work in the Field? I should have fallen at his Feet, had not *Henrietta* born me up: I no longer knew where I was, nor what I did: I would have spoken to him, but Grief had seized so on my Spirits, that my Tongue could not utter a Word. As to him, he beheld me not; he was so sad and depress'd, that he could look on no body; and one must love him as much as I did, to know him, so greatly was he chang'd.

After having been some Time coming to myself, I went into a low Room, where I was told *Meluzza* was: I saluted him, and told him the Occasion of my Voyage; that *Mendez* was my near Relation; that he was undone by the Loss of a Galeon, and his Captivity together, and that 'twas out of my own Money that I would pay his Ransom. The *Moor* appeared to be a little concern'd. It was not his Business to enquire whence I had my Money, but this he certainly knew, that *Mendez* was rich; and to shew that he would not take all Advantages, he would therefore set him at 20000 Crowns.

Alas! what would this have been, had I not lost my Jewels! But this was too much in the Condition I was in. In fine, after several long fruitless Disputes, I took
on

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on me immediately a Resolution which could only be inspir'd by an extreme Love.

' Here's all I have, said I to the Pirate, in giving him my Diamonds, they are not worth what thou demandest; take me for thy Slave, and be persuaded thou wilt not keep me long: I am the only Daughter of a rich Banker of *Seville*; keep me for an Hostage, and let *Mendez* go; he will soon return to redeem me.' The *Barbarian* was surpriz'd to find me capable of so generous and affectionate a Resolution. 'Thou art worthy, said he to me, of a better Fortune. Be it so; I accept the Condition you offer me: I will take care of thee, and be a good Patron to thee. Thou must leave the Habit thou wearest, to put on one agreeable to thy Sex: Thou shalt keep thy Jewels if thou wilt, I can as well stay for the Whole as for a Part.'

Donna Henrietta was so confused and dismayed at the Bargain I came from concluding, that she could not sufficiently express her Displeasure to me; but, in fine, maugre all her Remonstrances and Entreaties, I held firm: and *Meluza* caus'd a Slave's Habit to be brought me, which I put on.

He conducted me to his Wife's Chamber, to whom he deliver'd me, having

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recounted to her what I had done for my Lover's Liberty.

She seem'd to be much affected with it, and promised she would shorten the Time of my Servitude by all the good Treatments she could make me.

At Night, when *Mendez* return'd, *Meluzza* caused him to be call'd, telling him, That being of *Seville*, he would therefore shew him a Slave he had bought, because perhaps he might know her.

Immediately I was brought before him; *Mendez* at this Sight losing all Countenance, came and cast himself at my Feet, and taking my Hands, which he bathed with his Tears, he said every Thing which was most tender and affectionate to me. *Meluzza* and his Wife diverted themselves in seeing the different Emotions of Joy and Grief with which we were agitated: In fine, they inform'd *Mendez* of the Obligations he had to me; that he was free, and that I would remain in his Place. He did whatever could be done to dissuade me from taking this Task on me. ' Alas!
' said he to me, you would have me load
' you with my Chains, my dear Mistress;
' shall I be free, when you are not? I go
' then to do for you, what you come from
' doing for me; I will sell myself, and re-
' deem you with this Money: For, in fine,
' consider, that should I, as soon as I ar-
' rive

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‘rive at *Seville*, find Assistance, and return
‘again to bring you back, yet how is it
‘possible for me in the mean time to leave
‘you? Judge how I can do this, in a Time
‘wherein my Fortune promises me nothing,
‘and I am the most unhappy of all Men.’
I offer’d against all his Reasons the Tender-
ness of my Father, who would soon re-
deem me when he knew where I was. In
fine, I made use of all the Power I had
over his Mind, to make his Advantage of
what I had done in his Favour.

What shall I say to you, Madam, of
our Separation? It was so dolorous, that
Words cannot express what we felt. I ob-
liged *Henrietta* to depart with him, to sol-
licit and press my Parents to do their Part
in my Behalf.

In the mean time my Father and Mother
were in an unconceivable Affliction; and
when they perceiv’d my Flight, they thought
they should have died with Grief.

They blamed themselves infinitely for
forcing me to marry the Marquis *de les*
Rios. He was, for his Part, no less in De-
spair; they caus’d me to be search’d for in
vain, in all Places where they thought I
might have hid myself.

Two whole Years were past without my
receiving any News or Succours from *Men-*
dez; which made me believe with great
Likelihood, that both he and *Henrietta* were

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cast away on the Sea. I had given them all the Jewels which *Meluza* had left me ; but it was not their Loss, nor that of my Liberty, that I regretted : It was that of my dear Lover and faithful Friend, whose Remembrance continually possess'd me, and caused me an unparallel'd Affliction : I could get no Rest nor Health ; I wept Day and Night ; I refused to come out of my Slavery, by neglecting to signify to my Father my present Condition. I wish'd only for a speedy Death ; which I would willingly have met with, to put an End to my Troubles and Misfortunes.

Meluza and his Wife began to pity me ; they did not doubt but *Mendez* was cast away : They treated me less cruelly than these sort of People are wont to use those unhappy Wretches who fall into their Hands.

One Day, as *Meluza* came from Pirating, he brought with him several Persons of both Sexes whom he had taken, and among the rest, a young Woman of some Quality of *Seville*, and whom I knew. This Sight renew'd my Grief : She was much surprized to find me in this sad Place. We affectionately embraced one another : And observing a deep Silence ; ' How now, ' beautiful *Mariana*, said she to me, are ' you so indifferent towards your Relations and Country, that you have no ' Curiosity

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‘ Curiosity to make any Enquiries about
‘ them ?’ I lifted up my Eyes to Heaven
in uttering a deep Sigh, I intreated her to
tell me, if ’twere known, where *Mendez*
and *Henrietta* were lost ? ‘ Who told
‘ you they are lost ? reply’d she ; they are
‘ at *Seville*, where they lead a very hap-
‘ py Life. *Mendez* has re-establish’d his
‘ Affairs, and makes it his great Delight
‘ and Honour to publish in all Places the
‘ extreme obligations he has to *Henrietta*.
‘ Perhaps you are ignorant, continu’d she,
‘ that *Mendez* was taken and made a Slave
‘ by the *Algerines* : This generous young
‘ Woman disguised herself, and came hi-
‘ ther to redeem him ; but he has not been
‘ ungrateful, for he has marry’d her. There
‘ is a most charming Union between them,
‘ *Hymen* has not banish’d Love in their Par-
‘ ticular.’

As she was yet speaking, she perceived
my Countenance to alter on a sudden, and
that I was ready to faint ; my Strength
fail’d me, mine Eyes closed, and I sunk
down between her Arms : She was great-
ly troubled at this : She call’d my Compa-
nions, who put me to Bed, and endeavour-
ed to recover me from this piteous Con-
dition.

This young Woman greatly concern’d
herself for me, and when I came to myself,

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I began to complain ; I utter'd Sighs and Groans able to move a Rock.

Meluza was affected at the Recital of such a worse than barbarous Instance of Treachery ; and without any Notice to me, he inform'd himself by his new Slave of my Father's Name, and immediately wrote to him what he knew of my Misfortunes.

These Letters were like to have been the Death of my Mother ; she could not imagine that I should be in Chains at eighteen Years of Age, without shedding a Torrent of Tears : But that which augmented her Grief, was the Disorder of my Father's Affairs ; several considerable Bankrupts had ruin'd him, his Credit was gone, and it was impossible for him to procure the 20000 Crowns which *Meluza* demanded for my Ransom.

The generous Marquis *de los Rios* heard this News, came to my Father, and offer'd him what lay in his Power. ' I do not do this, said he, in design to force your Daughter's Inclinations when she shall be here ; I shall love her always, but I will never displease her.' My Father having no other Way of Relief, thankfully accepted of what was offer'd him ; and, in a Word, embark'd himself, and happily arriv'd at *Algiers*, in the Time when I thought only of dying.

He

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He forebore all those Reproaches I deserv'd ; he redeem'd me, and, at my Entreaty, this young Woman of *Seville*, for a moderate Ransom. We return'd, and my Mother receiv'd me with such Joy as is impossible to be express'd. I answered hereto as much as was possible ; but I carry'd always in my Heart, Madam, the fatal Stroke which had wounded me : Whatever my Reason could represent to me, was not sufficient to efface out of my Remembrance the Image of the Traytor *Mendez*.

I saw the Marquis *de los Rios* : He dared not mention the Inclinations he still had towards me ; but I had such pressing Obligations to him, that Gratitude made me do for him, what my Inclination would have made me do for another.

I gave him my Hand, and he his to me, with such Affection, as if he had no solid Matter of Complaint against me.

In fine, I marry'd him, and apprehending lest I should see *Mendez*, that ungrateful Wretch, to whom I owe such Horror, and for whom I had so little Respect, I prayed the Marquis we might dwell in the Country-House he had near *Seville*.

He ever approved of what I lik'd : He would have my Father and Mother retire ; he lessen'd the sad Condition of their Fortune by considerable Liberalities : And I may truly say, there never was a greater

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Soul. Judge, Madam, of all the Reproaches I made my Heart for its not being so tender to him as it ought to have been: It was not in my Power to forget *Mendez*; and I always felt new Regrets, when I learn'd his Felicity with the unfaithful *Henrietta*.

Having pass'd two Years in a continual Watching over myself, that I might do nothing but what was agreeable to my Character, Heaven deprived me of this generous Husband: And he did for me in these last Moments, more than what he had heretofore done, giving me all he had, with such Testimonies of Esteem and Affection, as much enhanced the Price of the Gift: He made me the richest Widow of *Andalusia*, but he could not make me the happiest.

I would not return to *Seville*, where my my Parents would have had me been; and to avoid it, I pretended a Journey farther into the Country, to look after some Part of my Estate. I set out; but there being a particular Fatality in whatever relates to me, in arriving at an Inn, the first Object that struck my Sight, was the unfaithful *Mendez*; he was in deep Mourning, and had lost nothing of whatever made me heretofore fancy him too lovely. It is impossible to express the Condition I was in; for endeavouring to get speedily from him,

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him, I found myself so weak and trembling, that I fell at his Feet. Altho' he knew me not at that Instant, yet he earnestly endeavour'd to raise me up; but the great Veil under which I was conceal'd, flying open, what became of him in seeing me? he remained no less confused than I was; he would have drawn near to me: But casting a furious Look on him, 'Darest thou, perjurd Wretch! said I to him, 'darest thou approach me! Art thou not 'afraid of the just Punishment of thy Perfidiousness?' He was some Time without answering me, and I was about leaving him, when he stopp'd me: 'Confound 'and overwhelm me with Reproaches, 'Madam, said he to me; give me the worst 'and most perfidious Names possible; they 'cannot be more than I deserve: But my, 'Death shall soon revenge your Quarrel: 'I ought to die with Sorrow for having 'betray'd you; and if I regret any Thing 'in dying, it is the having only one Life 'to lose to expiate all the Crimes you 'can justly accuse me of.' He appear'd to me much affected in ending these Words. And would to Heaven his Repentance were really sufficient and true. I would not hazard a long Conversation with him. I left him, disdaining to return him an Answer. And this Mark of Contempt and Slighting, was, without doubt, more sensi-

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ble to him, than all the Reproaches I might have made him.

He had some Time since lost his Wife, that unfaithful Creature who had help'd him to revolt against all the Offices of Love, Honour, and Gratitude. And from that Time he follow'd me every where : He was like a complaining Shadow, ever fasten'd to my Feet ; for he became so lean, pale, and changed, that he was no longer discernable. Heavens ! Madam, what Violence did I not offer myself, in continuing to treat him ill ? I found at last, I wanted Strength to resist the Weakness of my Heart, and the Ascendant this Wretch had over me. Rather than to commit so shameful an Offence, and to forgive him, I parted for *Madrid*, where I have Relations, and sought among them a Shelter against the Violence of my own Inclinations.

I was not there long but *Mendez* found me out. I must confess to you, I was not heartily displeased at his Attendance on me : But, maugre my Inclination towards him, I put on a firm Resolution to avoid him, seeing I could not sincerely hate him ; and unknown to every body, I took the Road to *Burgos*, where I am going to cloyster myself with the Religioſe there, my Friend. I flatter myself, Madam, with the Hopes of finding more rest there, than I have hitherto met with.

The

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The beautiful Marchionefs here held her Peace: And I testify'd to her my particular Acknowledgments for the Favour she had done me: I assured her of the Part I took in her Adventures. I conjur'd her to write to me, and to let me hear from her at *Madrid*; and she promised it me in the most obliging Manner as is possible.

We found the next Morning we could not set out, it having snow'd all the Night, and no Path appearing on the Ground; but we wanted not Company to pass the Time in Play and Discourse. Having been three Days with the Marchionefs *de los Rios*, without any Weariness at the Length of the Time, thro' the Pleasure I had of seeing and hearing her talk, (for she is one of the most lovely Women in the World), we parted with a mutual Regret; and it was not without doubling our Promises of writing to, and seeing one another hereafter.

The Weather mended, and I continued on my Journey to *Lerma*: We had travers'd dreadful Mountains, which bear the Name of *Sierra de Cogollos*; and it was not without great Trouble we got thither. This Town is small: It has given Name to the famous Cardinal *de Lerma*, Chief Minister to *Philip the Third*. It is from him that *Philip the Fourth* took the great Revenues he had receiv'd from the King his Master.

Here

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Here is a Castle, which I will see to-morrow, and of which I will give you an Account in my next. I am told an extraordinary Express is arriv'd, and will set out to-night : I will lay hold of this Opportunity of sending to you, and ending this long Letter ; for in Truth, I am tir'd both with the Way, and with writing ; but I shall never be weary of loving you.

*From Lerma,
Mar. 5. 1679.*

The End of the First PART.



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A
RELATION
OF A
Voyage to *SPAIN*,
IN
Several LETTERS.

THE SECOND PART.

LETTER V.



MY last was so long, and I was so weary when I ended it, that I could not add some Particulars, which probably might not have been unwelcome to you : I proceed then (dear
Kin-

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Kinswoman) to recount them, seeing you so much desire it.

I arriv'd late at *Lerma*, and resolv'd to tarry some Time to see the Castle which the *Spaniards* so highly esteem, that they prize it next the *Escorial*; and it is indeed a very fine Place. The Cardinal *de Lerma*, *Philip the Third's* Favourite, was its Founder. It stands on the Side of a Hill, and in your Way to it you must pass thro' a spacious Place surrounded with Arches and Galleries. This Castle consists of four vast Piles of Building, which make a compleat Quadrangle, of two Ranges of Porches within the Court, which are near as high as the Roof, and hinder the Apartments from Prospects on that Side. The Windows of all the Chambers look forward into the Country; the Rooms are spacious, and the Lodgings very fine and curiously gilt. There are a prodigious Number of them, and very well furnish'd. Near the Castle, you have a great Park, which extends itself along the Plain; thro' which runs a River and several lesser Springs: On the Side of the River there are Rows of great Trees; and not far from hence a Wood: So that I believe, in fine Weather, this is a delightful Place.

The Keeper of the Castle ask'd me, Whether I would see the Religioes, whose Convent is adjoining thereunto? I told him,

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him, Most willingly : So that he made us pass thro' a Gallery, at the End of which you meet with a Grate which reaches from top to bottom. The Abbess having been advertised of it, came here, with several Religioes, who were very entertaining, handsome, witty, and young ; discoursing with great Exactness, of every Thing. I was not weary of their Conversation, when a young Girl came and whisper'd the Abbess in the Ear ; who afterwards told me, there was a Lady of great Quality who had retired to their House, being the Daughter of Don *Mandrica de Lara*, Count *de Valine*, and eldest Son to the Duke *de Naxara* ; that she was the Widow of Don *Francisco-Fernandez de Castro*, Count *de Lemos*, Grandee of *Spain*, and Duke *de Tauresano* : That when she knew of *French* Ladies passing thro' *Lerma*, she was greatly desirous of entertaining them. I made Answer, I should be glad of the Honour of seeing her : Whereupon this young Girl was sent to her.

The Lady soon came, in a Dress used by the *Spaniards* these hundred Years : She had a kind of Pattens on, or rather Stilts, which made her look prodigious tall, so that she was fain to lean on two Persons Shoulders when she mov'd : She lean'd likewise on two Daughters of the Marquis *del Carpio* : One of them is of a very fair
Complexion,

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Complexion, which is rare in this Country ; and the other's Hair is as black as Jet. Their Beauty surprized me, and they wanted only, in my Mind, to be a little fat : But this is not reckon'd a Defect, in this Country, where they fancy Leanness so much, that they desire only to have Skin and Bones. The singular Dress of the Countess *de Lemos* appeared to me so extraordinary, that I could hardly keep my Eyes off of it. She wore a kind of black Sattin Gold-embroider'd Bodice, and button'd with great Rubies of a considerable Value : This Bodice came down from her Neck just like a Doublet ; her Sleeves were strait, and large Wings about her Shoulders, and other Sleeves hanging as low as her Gown, which were fasten'd on each Side with Roses of Diamonds : She had a dreadful Fardingal, which hinder'd her from sitting otherwise than on the Ground. She wore a Ruff, and several Chains of great Pearls and Diamonds ; her Hair was white, which she hid under a Coverture of black Lace, for she was no less than seventy-five Years old. She seem'd to me to have been a great Beauty in her Time ; her Face had not a Wrinkle, and her Eyes were still sparkling, and her white and red Paint became her very well : Her Wit and Personage, as I have been told, were
not

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not a little famous in the World. I look'd upon her as a curious Piece of Antiquity.

She told me, she had the Honour to accompany the Infanta when she espoused *Lewis the Thirteenth*: That she became acquainted with the Prince of *Conde* when he was in *Flanders*, and the Queen of *Sweden* came thither. ' You have seen this ' Queen, said I to her, interrupting her ; be ' pleas'd Madam, to favour me with a ' Relation of some Particulars of her Humour.'

You must know then, said she, that the King of *Spain* sent Don *Antonio Pimentel* in quality of an Ambassador to *Stockholm*, to discover as much as in him lay, the Intentions of the *Swedes*. They had been long Enemies to the House of *Austria*, and it was not doubted but they would make new Attempts to thwart it, in the Design of making the Emperor's Son King of the *Romans* : *Pimentel* was charg'd to carry on this Affair with great Circumspection. He was a gallant, witty, and handsome Person ; and he succeeded better than could be expected. He immediately discover'd the Queen's Genius, and easily made himself her Confident. He soon perceived she was mightily charm'd with Novelties ; and that of the Crowd of Strangers which she drew to the Court, the last come was the most favour'd. He
made

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made it his Task to please her ; and gain'd so far on her Affections, that he became inform'd by herself of the most secret Affairs, and which she ought the most to conceal from him. But what cannot he do, who has found a Way to the Heart? The Queen was so inclin'd to him, that he became the sole Disposer of the Affections of this Princess ; and by this Means was able to write to the Emperor, and to the Electors, Things so certain and agreeable, as made him easily judge, that the Queen of *Sweden's* Council had no Part in the Declaration she made in Favour of the King of *Hungary*.

This Intrigue being at an End, 'twas thought the King would recall *Pimentel*, there appearing no Occasion requiring the Presence of an Ambassador: But if it were needless for the King of *Spain*, that he should remain at *Stockholm*, 'twas not the same with the Queen, she neglecting nothing whereby to retain him near her. He attended where-ever she went since ; and many who were led by outward Appearances, judg'd, when she left the Crown to her Cousin, she did it with great Satisfaction, because she did it with dry Eyes, and had the Courage to harangue the States with great Force and Eloquence : But the People were greatly mistaken in the secret Motives of this Princess. Her Soul,
at

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at that Time, was pierced with the most lively Sorrow : She was not a little griev'd to yield to the Prince *Palatine*, a Scepter which she thought herself worthy to wield alone, and of which she was lawful Heiress.

This Prince had the Address to get it declar'd, That if she marry'd, she should chuse him for a Husband.

As soon as this Declaration was made, she began to feel the Weight of her Subjection wherein she was placed ; and on the other hand, the People did not well relish the being govern'd by a Woman. They insisted more on her Defects, than they minded her Virtues. The Prince contributed under-hand thereto ; and the Queen, who was penetrating, soon perceived it ; she observ'd the Inclination the People had to him, and the Wishes which were made to see him on the Throne : She grew every Day more and more jealous of this, and from hence there arose such a deadly Hatred, that 'twas impossible for her to stop the Course of it. The Prince's Presence became so insupportable to her, that perceiving it, he withdrew into an Island which belong'd to him : But he set not out, till he had left good Memoirs to his Creatures against the Queen's Conduct.

When

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When she saw herself deliver'd from an Object, whose Sight was so great an Eye-fore, she drew off her Mind from the too intent Pursuit of the Affairs of the Kingdom, and gave way to her Inclination to Books. Her marvellous Wit made, in a short Time, admirable Progresses in the most profound Sciences; but these were not so needful to her as the good Conduct in the Management of her Honour and Interest. It often happen'd, that having spent several Days in her Study, she would appear disgusted with her Books; saying, They were good for nothing but to waste the Spirits, and mislead Men's Judgments. When the great Men of the Court saw her in this Disposition, they approach'd her with more Familiarity; and then, the whole Business was to follow the Pleasures of Love, of Plays, Balls, Tournaments, Huntings, and all other Diversions. She gave up herself entirely to them, and nothing could bring her off them; but she added to this Defect, that of enriching Strangers at the Expence of her own Subjects.

The *Swedes* began to murmur at this; and the Queen was advertised of it: Their Complaints appeared to be unjust, and little respectful; and being not a little offended at them, she was so unwise, as to take vengeance on herself. In Effect,
at

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at the Time when 'twas least expected, and when she was in a Condition to find less violent Remedies, she abandon'd at one Stroke her Crown and Kingdom to her Cousin: To this Cousin, I say, whom she was so far from loving, that she wish'd him all the Ill she was able, and yet to whom she did so much Good. She thought 'twas impossible for any to penetrate into the Motives of this. She pretended by this great Stroke of Generosity, to distinguish herself among the Heroines of the most famous Ages: But, in Effect, her Conduct afterwards distinguish'd her only to her Disadvantage.

She was seen to set out from *Sweden* in a very odd Dress for a Woman, with a kind of *Justau-corps*, a short Petticoat, with Boots, and Cravat; in a Perriwig, a Hat cover'd with Feathers, and this Perriwig ty'd up in a Lock behind, which seem'd then very ridiculous. She forbid all her Women to follow her, chusing only Men to serve her, and attend her. She was wont ordinarily to say, That she did not love Men as Men, but because they were not Women: So that she seem'd to have renounced her Sex in renouncing her States, altho' she had sometimes such Weaknesses, as would have made the meanest Women ashamed.

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The trusty *Pimentel* pass'd over into *Flanders* with her; and I being there, continues she, I saw him arrive. He procur'd me the Honour to kiss her Hand, and there needed no less than his Credit to obtain this; for she sent word to all the Ladies of *Brussels* and *Antwerp*, she would excuse them for their Visits: Yet she received me very well, and the Little she said to me, appeared full of Wit and extraordinary Vivacity; but she swore at every Turn like a Soldier; and her Words and her Actions are so free, not to say dishonest, that were it not for her Rank, her Person would have been little regarded.

She spoke before every body of the passionate Desire she had to see the Prince of *Conde*; that his great Actions had charm'd her, and that she was desirous to learn the Trade of War under him. The Prince had no less Desire to see her, than she testify'd to see him. In the Midst of this mutual Impatience, the Queen stopp'd on a sudden on some Formalities and Steps which she refused to take, when he should come to salute her. These Reasons hinder'd her from seeing him with the usual Ceremonies. But one Day, when the Queen's Chamber was full of Courtiers, the Prince slipt therein: Whether she had seen his Picture, or that his Martial Air had

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had distinguish'd him from others, she had singled him out, and knew him. She would immediately hereupon have testified as much to him by extraordinary Civilities. He presently retir'd; and she follow'd to conduct him. Then he stopp'd, and contented himself with saying these Words, *Either All, or Nothing*. Some few Days after, an Interview was set on foot to be between them in the *Mall* in the Park at *Brussels*, where they spake together with great Civility and much Coldness.

As to Don *Antonio Pimentel*, the Favours she has had for him, have made Noise enough to come to your Ears; and if you be ignorant of them, Madam, I believe, I ought not to undertake to learn you the Particulars, of which perhaps I myself may have been ill inform'd.

She held her Peace; and I made my Profit of this Moment to thank her for her Complaisance in giving me an Account of a Queen, who has ever given me such a Curiosity. She ask'd me afterwards, whether I had seen the Castle of *Lerma*? He that built it, said she, was Favourite to *Philip the Third*, whose Death happen'd very strangely. This Prince, continu'd she, was writing Letters in his Closet; and it being very cold that Day, they had placed very near him a quick Fire of Coals, whose Reverberation

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verberation struck so much on his Face, that he was all in Water, as if a great Quantity of it had been pour'd on his Head. The Easiness of his Temper hinder'd him from complaining, and even speaking of it; for he never found fault with any Thing. The Marquiss *de Pobar* having observ'd the Incommodiousness which the King received by this extreme Heat, advertised the Duke *d'Alva's* Gentleman of his Chamber of it, to the End he might remove the Fire away: He reply'd it was not his Office; and that the Duke *Duesda* ought to be made acquainted with it, whose proper Business it was. The Marquiss *de Pobar* being troubled to see the King thus suffer, and not daring himself to ease him, for Fear of invading another's Province, left the Fire still in its Place: But he sent to give notice of it to the Duke *Duesda*, who was by Misfortune gone near *Madrid*, to see a stately House he was there building. Word was brought of this again to the Marquiss *de Pobar*, who propos'd again to the Duke *d'Alva* the taking away the Fire; but he found him inflexible hereunto, and chose rather to send into the Country to the Duke *Duesda*; so that before he was come, the King was almost spent, and that very Night he fell into a violent Fever, accompany'd with an Erysipelas, which inflamed, and the Inflammation occasioned

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ned the Purples, which in a little Time caused his Death.

I must confess, said she, that having seen, when I was abroad in the World, other Courts besides our own, I could not forbear blaming these kind of Ceremonies and Punctilio's, which hinder the taking of one Step faster than another, tho' Life depended thereon. The old Countess of *Lemos* loved to talk, and continuing her Discourse, among other Names, mention'd that of the Count *de Villa Mediana*. I have heard, said I, interrupting her, that this Gentleman, being one Day in the Church of our Lady *de Arocha*, and finding there a Religioſoe, who begged for the Souls in Purgatory, he gave him a Piece of four Pounds. 'Ah! my Lord, said 'the good Father, you have now deliver'd 'a Soul.' The Count drew out again a like Piece, and put it into the Bason: 'Here's, continu'd the Religioſoe, another Soul deliver'd:' He gave him in this Manner, six, one after another, and at the dropping of each Piece, the Monk cry'd, *Here's a Soul deliver'd from Purgatory*. 'Will you be positive in it?' reply'd the Count. Yes, my Lord, reply'd the Monk, I am certain they are now in Heaven. Give me now then back again my six Pieces, said he; for they signify nothing to you, seeing the

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‘Souls are already got to Heaven, there’s
 ‘no Danger of their returning again to
 ‘Purgatory.’ It was, as you relate, added
 ‘the Countess, but he took not again his
 ‘Money; for this would have been a-
 ‘mong us a horrid Sacrilege. And I knew
 ‘a Man of good Quality, who being much
 behind in the World, yet when he was dy-
 ing, would have fifteen thousand Mas-
 ses to be said for him. His Last Will
 was executed, and his poor Creditors de-
 frauded; for how just soever their Debts
 be, they can expect to receive nothing, till
 such Time as all the Masses which are left
 in the Will be said. And this has given
 Occasion to that common Saying among
 us, *That such a one has made his Soul his*
Heir; whereby is meant, that he has left
 his Estate to the Church to say Prayers for
 him.

King *Philip the Fourth* order’d in his Will
 an hundred thousand Masses to be said for
 him; farther declaring, That should he
 cease needing them, they should serve for his
 Father and Mother; and in case they were
 got to Heaven, they should be apply’d to
 the Souls of those who were slain in the
 Wars of *Spain*.

But what I have already told you of
 the Count *de Villa Mediana*, brings to my
 Mind, that he being one Day at Church
 with Queen *Elizabeth*, he saw a great
 deal

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deal of Money on the Altar, which was given for the Souls in Purgatory. He drew near, and took it up in his Hand; saying, ' My Love will last for ever; my Pains will likewise be eternal: Those of ' of the Souls in Purgatory will have an ' End; Alas! mine will never end. These ' Hopes comfort them: As for me, I am ' without Hope and Comforts; so that ' these Charities are more due to me than ' they.' However he took nothing away, only spoke these Words, as an Occasion to bring in his Passion before this beautiful Queen, who was present: For, in Effect, his was so violent for her, that there is some Reason to think she was not wholly insensible of it, if her rigid Virtue had not preserved her Heart against the Count's Merit. He was young, well shap'd, handsome, brave, magnificent, gallant and witty. Every body knows how he appear'd to his Misfortune in a *Carosel* at *Madrid*, with a Suit embroider'd with Pieces of new Money, call'd *Realles*, and which he bore for a Device;

MIS AMORES SON REALLES.

making an Allusion to the Word *Realles*, which is to say, *Royal*, with the Passion he had for the Queen, This is finer in
I 2 *Spanish.*

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Spanish, and signifies in *English*, *My Love is Royal*.

The Count-Duke *de Olivarez*, the King's Favourite, and the secret Enemy to the Queen and the Count, made his Master take notice of the Boldness of the Subject, who dar'd, even in his Presence, declare the Sentiments he had for the Queen; and in this Moment he persuaded the King to be revenged on him. An Occasion was waited for which would make no Noise. But here is what hasten'd his Ruin: Applying his Mind only to divert the Queen, he wrote a Comedy, which every body likes; and the Queen, more than others, found therein such moving and delicate Strokes, that she would act a Part in it herself on the King's Birth-Day. It was the amorous Count, who manag'd and took care of the Festival; he order'd the Cloaths, and provided Machines, which cost him above thirty thousand Crowns. He had caus'd a great Cloud to be painted, under which the Queen was concealed in a Machine. He stood very near it, and at a certain Sign he gave a Man who was faithful to him, he set fire to the Linnen-Work of the Cloud. The whole House valued at a hundred thousand Crowns, was in a manner consum'd; but he comforted himself, when making his Advantage of this favourable Opportunity,

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Opportunity, he took his Sovereign in his Arms, carry'd her into a little By-place, and there stole from her some Favours; and that which is much taken notice of in this Country, is, that he touch'd her Foot. A little Page who saw him, inform'd the Count-Duke of it; he did not doubt, when he saw the Fire, but this was an Effect of the Count's Passion. He made such an exact Enquiry, that he laid before the King certain Proofs of it; and his Proofs so greatly enrag'd the King, that 'tis pretended, he caus'd him to be shot with a Pistol one Night, as he was in his Coach with Don *Lewis de Haro*.

Here's a very tragical End, said I to her, interrupting her. But whilst, said she, I am speaking to you of *Philip the Fourth*, I cannot help telling you, that he was vehemently in love with the Dutches *Dalburkerke*. He could never meet with a favourable Opportunity of entertaining her. The Duke her Husband kept strict Guard over her, and the more Obstacles the King met with, the more his Desires increased: But when Night came, and when he was at Play, he pretended to call to mind he had a Letter to write, of the greatest Consequence: He call'd the Duke *Dalburkerke*, who was in his Chamber, and desired him to take his Place, and continue his Game. He im-

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mediately hereupon enter'd into his Closet, disguised himself, and went down by the Back-Stairs, and came to the young Dutchess, with the Count-Duke his Favourite.

The Duke *Dalburkerke*, whose Mind ran on his domestick Interests more than his Game, easily believ'd his Master would not have committed it to him without some secret Design: He began then to complain of a horrid Cholic, and uttering Cries, and making Faces enough to fright one, he gave the Cards to another, and without any Stop ran home. The King had only just arrived there without any Train; he was then in the Court, and seeing the Duke come, he hid himself: But there is nothing so clear-sighted as a jealous Husband: He perceiv'd the King; and being not willing to have Lights brought, that he might not be obliged to acknowledge he saw him, he made up to him with a Cane which he commonly walk'd with: *Ha, ha, Villain!* said he to him, *thou comest to rob my House*; and without more Words, he laid on him with all his Strength. The Count-Duke was no more spared, who fearing lest worse might happen, cry'd out several Times, *'Twas the King*, to stop the Duke's Fury: But this was so far from effecting it, that he redoubled his Blows, both on the Prince and his Minister, crying

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ing in his Turn, That this was a Stroke of the greatest Insolence, to make use of his Majesty's Name and his Favourite's on such an Occasion: That he could find in his Heart to send them to the Palace, because he well knew the King would cause them to be hang'd. In all this Fray the King said not a Word; and at length got away half mad, in having received so many Blows, and not one Favour from his Mistress.

This produced no ill Consequences to the Duke *Dalburkerke*; but on the contrary, the King being cured of his Love to the Dutchess, made a Jest of it some Time after.

' I know not whether I do not abuse your
' Patience by the Length of this Conversa-
' tion, added the Countess *de Lemos*; and
' I fall insensibly into the Defect of Persons
' of my Age, who forget themselves when
' they tell of Things done in their Time.'
I saw she was for retiring; and having again thank'd her for the Honour she had done me, I took my Leave of her, and return'd to my Inn.

The Weather was so foul, that we with great Difficulty set out; but being resolv'd on it, we marched as long as the Day lasted, falling down, and getting up as well as we could. We could hardly see four Paces before us; the Storm was so great, that it blew several Stones off the

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Rocks, which fell into our Way, and hurt one of our Company ; he had been kill'd, had he not stepp'd on one Side. In fine, after having made about eight Leagues, according to our Reckoning, we were much astonish'd to find ourselves at the Gates of *Lerma*, without having advanced or gone back. We had still turn'd about the Town without perceiving it, as it were, by Enchantment ; sometimes farther, sometimes nearer ; and we were all of us not a little out of Humour at having taken so much Pains to so little Purpose.

The Hostess transported at the Sight of us, she who could have been glad with all her Heart we should thus travel as long as we liv'd, to return to lie at her House every Night, tarry'd for me at the Top of her little Stair-Case. She told me, she was very sorry she could not let me have my Room again, but would give me another commodious enough, and that mine was taken up by a *Signora*, the greatest in *Spain*. Don *Fernando* ask'd her Name : She told him, she was called Donna *Eleonora* of *Toledo* : He as soon inform'd me, she was his near Kinswoman. He could not comprehend by what Chance she should come there.

To be satisfy'd in the Matter, he sent his Gentleman to make her a Compliment, and to know whether his Visit would not be

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be troublesome? She sent word, she had a great Satisfaction at this happy Meeting, and that he would do her a great deal of Honour. He went up immediately to her Chamber, and was inform'd by her of several Particulars which related to him. He came afterwards to me, and told me very civilly, that were not Donna *Eleonora* excessive weary and indisposed, she would have given me the first Visit. I in short, desired him to conduct me to her Chamber, where she received me in the most obliging Manner: And I observed, in the first Moment of our Conversation, that she had a great deal of Wit and Politeness. I found her very neat and handsome; her Eyes were lively, and so glistering, that one could not without Pain, endure their Brightness. Don *Fernando* told her who I was, and that I went to see one of my near Relations at *Madrid*. Her Name was not unknown to her, no more than her Person: She told me, 'twas not long since the King had made her *Titularia* and *Marchioness of Castile*. I should be greatly obliged to you, Madam, said I to her, interrupting her, if you would be pleased to give me some Account of this Title; she having mention'd it in her Letters, without explaining to me what it means, no more than that of *Grandee*, &c.

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I shall take a Pleasure to inform you of what I know, reply'd Donna *Eleonora* ; and I have always heard, that in the Time of the first Kings, *Doviedo de Galicia* and *Austria*, they were elected by the Prelates of the Kingdom, and by the *Ricos-homes*. These Lords having not yet obtain'd the Titles of Dukes, Marquisses, and Counts, which distinguish them from Gentlemen, they were call'd *Ricos-homes* ; which were as the *Grandeos of Spain* now. The *Ricos-homes* stood cover'd before the King, enter'd among the States, and had their Positive, and Negative Voice. And the *Titulado's*, at present, are the same which were then called *Ricos-homes* ; but their Privileges are not so large, and most of these Honours, as I shall tell you, have been reserv'd to the *Grandeos of Spain*. The *Titulado's* may have a Canopy or Cloth of State in their Chamber, a Coach in *Madrid*, with four Horses, with *los tiros largos* ; which are long Traces of Silk, which fasten the last Horses to the foremost. When there are Bull-Feasts, they have Balconies in the great Place, where their Wives are regaled with Baskets full of Sweet-Meats, Gloves, Ribbands, Fans, Silk Hose ; and this at the King's, or Town's Charge which gives the Feast. They have their Seat set out in their Ceremonies ; and when the King makes a
Titulado,

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Titulado, Marquis of *Castile*, *Arragon*, or *Granada*, he enters into the States of this Kingdom.

As to the *Grandeos*, there are three different Ranks of them; and the Manner in which the King speaks to them in making them, distinguishes them. The one are those whom he bids be cover'd, without adding any Thing thereto: Their Grandeur is only fixed to their Person, and not to their Family.

The others, whom the King qualifies with the Title of one of their Lands: As for Example, Duke, or Marquis of such a Place, *Cover yourself, for you, and for yours*, are *Grandeos* in a more advantageous Manner than the first; because their Grandure being fixed to their Estates, passes to their eldest Son; and if they have none, to their Daughter or Heir.

The last are not cover'd till after they have spoken to the King; and the Difference between these is observ'd in saying, *They are Grandeos for Life, or in their Race*. It is farther to be observ'd, That there are some whom the King makes be cover'd before they speak to him, in saying to them *Cubridos*; and they speak, and hear the King speak, ever cover'd. Others, who are only cover'd after they have spoke to him, and he has answer'd them. And the third, who are only covered when they

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they have withdrawn themselves from the King towards the Wall : But when they be all together in publick Offices, or at Chapel, there is no Difference between them, they sit down and are cover'd before him. And when he writes to them, he treats them as if they were Princes. They have the Titles of Excellency given them. When their Wives go to the Queen, she receives them standing ; and instead of sitting on the Foot-Cloth, they have Cushions brought them to sit on.

Here's, Madam, continu'd Donna *Eleonora*, what you desired to know. After due Thanks for her Civility, the Hour of withdrawing being come, I took my Leave of her, entreating her to continue me in her Friendship.

I arose before Day, because we had a great Journey to make, to lie at *Aranda de Duero*. The Weather growing milder, it became very misty, which at length turn'd to Rain ; and in arriving at Night, our Host told us we were very welcome to him, but we must make shift without Bread. This is, reply'd I, a Thing one cannot easily be without : And in Effect, this News put me a little out of Humour. I enquir'd how this Scarcity happen'd. 'Twas, answer'd me, the Alcade Major of the Town (who is he that orders every Thing, and who is both Governor and Judge)

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Judge) had sent for all the Bread and Meal which was at the Baker's, and had brought it into his House to make an equal Distribution of it, proportionable to the Necessities of each particular Person; and what had occasioned this, was, that the River of *Duero*, which passes about the Town, was frozen, and the Rivers of *Leon*, *Suegra*, *Burgos*, *Tormes*, and *Salamanca*, which threw and lost themselves therein, had likewise ceased their Courses, so that no Mills could grind; which made them apprehend a Famine. This obliged us to address ourselves to him to have the Bread we needed. Don *Fernando* sent to him one of his Gentlemen in the Name of us all; and immediately we had so much Bread sent us, that we gave Part to our Host and his Family, who much wanted it.

Scarce were we at Table, when one of my Servants brought into my Chamber several Packets of Letters, which they had found on the Stairs in the Inn. He that carry'd them having drank more than he needed, had fallen there asleep; by which Means all his Letters lay exposed to the Curiosity of all that passed by. Here is, in this Country, a very ill Order touching Commerce; and when the *French* Courier arrives at *St. Sebastian*, all the Letters he brings are deliver'd to others who are good Footmen, and ease
one

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one another. They put these Packets into a Sack, ty'd with rotten Cords to their Shoulders; by which Means it oft happens, that the Secrets of your Heart and Family are open to the first curious Body who makes this Foot-Post drunk: And this is what happen'd on this Occasion; for *Don Frederic de Cardonne* having look'd on the Superscriptions of several Letters, he at last met with one from a Lady in whom he was apparently interested; at least I so judg'd from the Emotion of his Countenance, and Earnestness with which he open'd the Packet. He read the Letter, and was willing to shew it me, without telling me from whom it came, nor for whom it was; but he promised to inform me further about it at *Madrid*. Finding it well writ, it came into my Mind that you would be perhaps glad to see the Style of a *Spanish* Lady, when she writes to one she loves. I pray'd the Knight to let me take a Copy of it; but 'tis certain, the Translation takes away much of the Beauty of the Original. Here it is:

EVERY Thing contributes to afflict me in the unfortunate Embassy you have undertaken, not to mention, that Distance is the Bane of the strongest Friendship. I cannot flatter myself, that a Rupture between the Sovereigns may abridge the Time of your Absence, and restore me

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me a Good, without which I can no longer live. Of all the Princes of Europe, he to whom you are sent, is the most at Union with us. I can foresee no War with him ; and this Scourge, with which Heaven punishes the Guilty, would be to me a thousand Times more welcome than Peace : Yes, I would be glad to bear alone all the Disasters of it ; to see my Lands wasted, my Houses burnt, to lose my Estate and my Liberty, provided we could be together, and without your sharing in my Disgraces, I could enjoy the Pleasure of seeing you. You may judge by these Dispositions of the Condition I am in, when I think that you are really going away, that I remain at Madrid, that I dare not follow you ; that my Duty stifles immediately the Projects I might make to comfort myself, and that I lose you, in fine, in a Time wherein I have most Reason to be persuaded of yours, and wherein I feel more the Marks you gave me of it. I should conceal from you my Grief, and add none to yours : But how can I weep, and weep without you ? Alas, Alas ! I shall soon be forced to weep alone : Are you not afraid so lively an Affliction will kill me ? And can you not feign yourself sick, that you may not leave me ? Think of all the Advantages which are included in this Proposition : But I am a Fool to make it you ; you will prefer the King's Orders before mine ; and 'twou'd bring me into new Vexations to put you on such a Proof. Adieu, I ask
you

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you nothing, because I have too much to ask you : I was never so afflicted.

As I ended the translating of this Letter which I send you, the Alcade's Son came to see me : He was a young Man, who had a good Opinion of himself, and who was a true *Guap*. Let not this Word offend you (dear Cousin) *Guap* is the same in *Spanish*, as a brave Gallant and Spark is with us. His Hair was parted on the Crown of his Head, and ty'd behind with a blue Ribband about four Fingers Breadth, and about two Yards long, which hung down at its full Length ; his Breeches were of black Velvet, button'd down on each Knee with five or six Buttons ; he had a Vest on, so short, that it scarce reach'd below his Pockets, a scollopp'd Doublet with Hanging-sleeves about four Fingers Breadth, made of white embroider'd Sattin. His Cloak was of black Bays, and he being a Spark, had wrapp'd it round his Arm ; because this is more gallant, with a very light Buckler in his Hand, and which has standing out in the Midst a Steel Spike ; they carry it with them, when they walk in the Night on any Occasion : He held in the other Hand a Sword longer than an Half-Pike, and the Iron for its Guard, was enough to make a Breast and Back-plate. These Swords being so long, that they cannot be

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be drawn out, unless a Man has the Arms of a Giant; the Sheaf therefore flies open in laying the Finger on a little Spring. He had likewise a Dagger, whose Blade was very narrow; it was fasten'd to his Belt on his Back. He had such a strait Collar, that he could neither stoop, nor turn about his Head. Nothing can be more ridiculous than what they wear about their Necks, for it is neither a Ruff, nor a Band, nor a Cravat. His Hat was of a prodigious Size, with a great Band twisted about it bigger than a mourning one. His Shoes were of as fine Leather as that whereof Gloves are made, and all slash'd and cut, notwithstanding the Cold, and so exactly close to his Feet, that they seem'd rather pasted on; they have no Heels. He made me, in entering, a Reverence after the *Spanish* Fashion; his two Legs cross one another, and lowly stooping, as Women do when they salute one another. He was strongly perfum'd; and they are all so; his Visit was not long; he was very brisk; he forgot not to tell me, he went often to *Madrid*, and that there were no Courses of Bulls, wherein he ventur'd not his Life. But as the little Care which was taken of Letters run in my Mind, and troubled me, I told him of the Courier whom my People had found asleep on the Stairs. He answer'd me, this happen'd from the Neglect of the Great Post-Master;

or,

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or, to speak better, in that he would gain too much, and that if the King knew of it, he would not suffer it. This Name of Great Post-Master made me enquire of him, whether any one rid-post in *Spain*? He told me, yes; provided they had the King's Leave; or of the Great-Master, who is always a Person of a distinct Birth; and that unless you have an Order well sign'd, and in good Form, you can have no Horses. 'But, said I to him, a Man who has fought a 'Duel, or has other Reasons to hasten away, 'what does he? Nothing, Madam, said he 'to me; if he has good Horses, he makes 'use of them, and if he has not, he is perplex'd enough; but when one will go post, 'and parts not directly from *Madrid*, it is sufficient to take a Billet from the Alcade, 'which is to say, Governor of the Towns 'where you pass.' My Curiosity being satisfi'd on this Subject, the gallant *Spaniard* withdrew; and we sup'd all together as we were wont.

I had been some Time in Bed and asleep, when I was awaken'd by the ringing of Bells, and by a confused Noise of dreadful Voices. I knew not as yet what was the Cause, when Don *Fernando de Toledo*, and Don *Frederic de Cardenne*, without knocking at my Door, burst it open; and calling out to me as loud as they could, to make me hear (for they had Light) came both of them to my
Bed,

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Bed, and throwing my Gown upon me, they carry'd me away with my Daughter, as quick as they could to the Top of the House. It is impossible to represent to you my Astonishment and Fear. I ask'd them at length, what was the Matter? They told me, the Thaw was come down all of a sudden, with such a great Violence, that the Rivers being swelled with the Torrents which fell from all Sides of the Mountains, with which the Town is surrounded, had fallen on it, and overflow'd it: That at the Instant they came to take me, the Water had already got to my Chamber, and that all was in horrid Confusion. They needed say no more; for I heard dreadful Cries and Shrieks, and the Water shook the whole House. I was never so seized with Fear in all my Life: I affectionately regretted my dear Country: *Alas!* said I, *I have travelled a long Way, to come to drown myself on the fourth Story of an Inn in Aranda.* All Raillery apart, I thought seriously my last Hour was come; and I was so troubled, that I was twenty Times thinking to entreat these Gentlemen to hear me in Confession; I believe that in the Sequel they would have more laugh'd at it than I. We were till Day in continual Alarms; but the Alcade and the Inhabitants of the Town so speedily and effectually bestirred themselves, in turning aside the Torrents, and making the Waters

pass,

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pass, that we were only affrighted: Two of our Mules were drowned; my Litters and Cloaths were so soak'd with Water, that to dry them we were forced to tarry one whole Day: And this was no easy Matter, for there are no Chimneys in the Inns; they heated the Oven, and put my Cloaths in it. I can assure you, I have not gain'd any Thing in this unhappy Inundation. I lay down after this, or to speak better, I bathed myself, my Bed being as wet as any Thing else.

My Fellow-Travellers thought fit to let me rest a little; I have employ'd one Part of my leisure Time in writing to you. Adieu, dear Cousin, it is Time to finish. I am ever more yours than any body's in the World.

*From Aranda de Duero,
the 9th of March.*



LETTER



L E T T E R. VI.

THE Exactness I observe in giving you an Account of Things which I judge worthy of your Curiosity, puts me oftentimes on Enquiries into several Particulars which I should have otherwise omitted, had you not persuaded me that you are a great Lover of Novelties, and that you love to travel without going out of your Closet.

We parted from *Aranda* in the Time of the Thaw, which as it render'd the Air warmer, so it made the Ways more troublesome. We came a while after to the Mountain *de Samozierra*, which parts the *Old Castile* from the *New*; and we travers'd it not without Difficulty, as well for its Height, as the Quantity of Snow with which the Bottoms are fill'd, and into which we sometimes fell as from Precipices, believing the Way even. They call this Pass the *Puerto*, which Name, methinks, should be only given to a Part where one embarks on the Sea, or a River; but it is thus they call the Passage from one Kingdom to another, and you make your Way to your Cost; for the King's Officers

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cers wait for Travellers in the Road, and let them not go, till they have paid what they require.

In arriving at *Buitraga*, we were as wet as in the Night of the Inundation at *Aranda*; and tho' I kept my Litter, I felt no less the Incommodiousness of the Weather, than if I had been on foot or Horseback, because the Litters are so ill closed and made in this Country, that when the Mules pass thro' any Water, they throw up with their Feet Part of the Water into the Litter, which there remains: So that I was forced, in arriving, to change my Linnen and Cloaths. Afterwards Don *Fernando*, the three Knights, my Daughter, and my Women, went with me to the Castle I had been so often told of.

It appeared to me as regularly built as that of *Lerma*, not so large, but every whit as pleasant: The Apartments are better contriv'd, and the Furniture is richer, and very singular, as well for its Antiquity as Magnificence. This Castle, as well as that of *Lerma*, belongs to Don *Rodrigo de Silva de Mendoza*, Duke of *Pastrana* and *del' Infantada*. His Mother's Name was *Donna Katherina de Mendoza & Sandoval*, Heiress of the Dutchies of *Infantada* and *Lerma*. It descends from Father to Son of *Ruy Gomez de Silva*, who was made Duke of *Pastrana*, and the Prince of *Eboly*, by
King

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King *Philip the Second*. The Princess *de Eboly*, who has been so much talk'd of for her Beauty, was his Wife, and the King was passionately in love with her. They shewed me her Picture: She is represented at her whole Length, sitting under a Tent fastened to some Boughs of Trees. She seems as if she were rising; for she had only a fine Linnen Cloth on her, which lets one Part of her Body be seen. If she was as handsome as her Picture makes her, and if her Features were so regular, she must be judg'd the most charming Woman in the World. Her Eyes are so lively and full of Spirit, that it seems as if she were about speaking to you: Her Neck, Arms, Feet, and Legs, are naked: Her Hair falls down on her Breasts, and little *Cupids*, which appear every where about her, press on one another to serve her; some had her Slippers, others are ready to strew Flowers on her, and some hold her Looking-Glass: Others are seen farther off, who are sharpening their Arrows, whilst others fill their Quivers with them, and bend their Bow. A Fawn looks on her thro' Boughs; she sees him, and shows him to a little *Cupid*, who is leaning on her Knees, and weeps as if he were afraid of it; at which she seems to smile. I remain'd a great while looking on this Picture with
the

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the greatest Pleasure ; but I was made to pass into a Gallery, where I saw her again. She was painted in a large Piece, attending Queen *Elizabeth*, Daughter to *Henry the Second*, King of *France* ; whom *Philip the Second* King of *Spain* espoused ; instead of giving her to Don *Carlos* his Son, to whom she had been promised. The Queen made her Entrance on horseback, as 'tis the Custom ; and I found the Princess *Eboly* less shining near her, than she appeared to me when alone. You may hereby judge of the Charms of this young Queen : She had a blue Satin Gown on ; but as to the rest, just as I represented to you the Countess of *Lemos*. The King stood in a Balcony to see her pass by : He had a black Suit with a Collar of the Golden Fleece ; his Hair reddish and grey, long Visage, pale, old, wrinkled, and ugly. The Infant Don *Carlos* accompany'd the Queen ; he was very white, a fine Head, his Hair of a light Yellow, his Eyes blue ; and he looked on the Queen with so moving an Air, that it appear'd, the Painter knew the Secret of his Heart, and would express it : His Habit was white, embroider'd with precious Stones ; he was in his Doublet, with his Hat button'd up on one Side, and cover'd with white Feathers. I saw in the same Gallery another Piece which much affected me,

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me, which was the Prince Don *Carlos* dying; he was sitting in a Chair, leaning on his Arm on a Table before him, holding a Pen in his Hand, as if he would have wrote something; there was a Vessel by him, wherein appeared a Sort of black Liquor, which apparently was designed for Poison. A little further, you see the Bath preparing for him, where his Veins were to be open'd: The Painter had perfectly well represented the Confusion of so sad an Occasion; and having read this History, and being much affected with it, methoughts I saw him really dying. I was told these Papers were of inestimable Value. I was afterwards conducted into a Chamber, whose Furniture had belong'd to the Arch-Dutchess *Marguerita* of *Austria*, Governess of the *Low-Countries*; and 'tis pretended she had work'd it herself. There is a neatly wrought Bed of Flowers, Woods, Animals, and Feathers of all Colours; the Hangings are the same, and the Different Colours therein do make a very agreeable Show. And this is what I found most remarkable in the Castle of *Buitrago*, and it growing late, we left it.

It was several Days since I had the Pleasure of seeing the playing at *Ombre*; I therefore caused the Cards to be brought. Don *Fernando*, with two of the Knights,

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began

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began the Game, and I interested myself, as I was wont, and Don *Esteve de Carvaial* did the like; so that after we had seen them play some Time, I demanded of him to whom of the three Knights belong'd the Commandership, and whence they came when I met them. He answer'd me, it did not belong to any one of them, that he had been to see one of their common Friends, on a vexatious Accident which had happen'd to him in hunting: Falling on the Subject of Commandership, I entreated him to inform me, whether the Orders of St. *James Calatrava* and *Alcantara* were antient. He answer'd me, 'twas above 500 Years they had subsisted, that heretofore the Order of *Calatrava* was call'd, *The Gallant*; that of St. *James*, *the Rich*; and that of *Alcantara*, *the Noble*. That which made them be call'd thus, was, that ordinarily there enter'd only young Cavaliers into *Calatrava*; that St. *James's* was richer than the two others; and that to be received a Knight of *Alcantara*, he must make proof of a long and noble Descent; whereas to enter into the others, two were sufficient. In the first Times, when these Orders were established, the Knights made Vows, lived regularly in Community, and wore Arms only to combat the *Moors*; but afterwards the greatest Lords of the Kingdom enter'd into it, who

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who obtain'd the Liberty to marry, under this Condition, that they should be obliged to demand an exprefs Dispensation from the Holy See: One must have the King's Letter, make his Proofs of Nobility, and likewise prove he came of *Old Christians*, which is to say, there have enter'd no *Jews* nor *Moors* into his Father's and Mother's Family. Pope *Innocent the Eighth* gave in 1489, to King *Ferdinand* and his Successors, the Disposal of all the Commanderships of these three Orders, which are call'd, *Military*. The King of *Spain* disposes of them in Effect under the Title of *Perpetual Administrator*; and he enjoys three great Masterships, which bring him in above 4000 Crowns a Year. When he holds a Chapter, as Great Master of the Order, or any other Assembly, the Knights have the Privilege to sit and be cover'd in his Presence. Don *Esteve* added, That the Order of *Calatrava* had 34 Commanderships, and 8 Pories, valu'd at 120000 Ducats a Year; that *Alcantara* had 33 Commanderships, 4 Alcades, and four Pories, which yielded 80000 Ducats; and that the 87 Commanderships of St. *James*, as well in *Castile*, as in the Kingdom of *Leon*, were valu'd at 272000 Ducats. You may hereby judge, Madam, continu'd he, that there are some Helps for the poor Gentlemen of *Spain*.

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I agree, said I to him, that this would be very advantageous for them were they the only Persons admitted into these three Orders: But I think you just now told me, that the greatest Lords possess the best Commanderships. This is by a general Rule, said he, that *Those who have much, will have more*; and there's the greatest Justice others should have a Share; and the eldest of great Quality might have wherewith to satisfy them in obtaining the Order of the *Fleece*, which extreamly distinguishes those whom the King honours with it. However, this being a Favour accompany'd with no Revenue, and being not easily obtain'd, few People seek it; and you see ordinarily none but Princes have it. If you know who instituted this Order of the *Fleece*, said I to him, you will oblige me in informing me. It is pretended, reply'd he, that in the Time when the *Moors* possess'd the best and greatest Part of *Spain*, a pious Peasant praying one Day earnestly to God to deliver the Kingdom from these Infidels, perceived an Angel coming down from Heaven, who gave him a Fleece of Gold, and commanded him to make use of it to gather Troops, because at this Sight he would not be refused to be follow'd for the fighting the Enemy. This holy Man obey'd, and several Gentlemen
took

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took up Arms in Effect on what he had told them.

The Success of this Enterprize answer'd the Hope conceived of it; so that *Philip the Good*, Duke of *Burgundy*, instituted the Order of the *Golden Fleece*, in the Honour of God, of the Virgin, and *St. Andrew*, in the Year 1429; and the Day of his Marriage with *Isabella*, Daughter to the King of *Portugal*, was chosen for this Ceremony. It was made at *Bruges*: It ordained, that the Duke of *Burgundy* should be *Perpetual Chief* of the Order, because *St. Andrew* is Patron of *Burgundy*. Those who have it are called *Cavallero's del Tuzon*, which is to say, *Knights of the Fleece*: And one may hence remark, that there is a Difference in relation to this Order, saying, when one speaks of the others, that such a one is Knight of the Order of *St. James*, of the Order of *Calatrava*.

In the Time when we were thus talking, we heard a Noise, as of a Coach and Attendants that stopp'd. Not long after Don *Frederick de Cardonne's Valet de Chambre* enter'd my Chamber, to tell his Master, that the Archbishop of *Burgos* was arriv'd.

This is a happy Encounter for me, said he; for I parted expressly from *Madrid* to see him, and having not found him at *Burgos*, I was not a little troubled at it.

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Fortune is always on your Side, said Don *Sancho* smiling to him ; but not to retard the Pleasure of seeing this illustrious Kinsman, we leave off our Game. Don *Fernando* and Don *Sancho* arose. Undoubtedly, says Don *Esteve*, Don *Frederick* will not be of our Company this Night. I am of another Mind, reply'd Don *Fernando* ; the Archbishop is one of the most obliging Persons in the World : As soon as ever he knows here's a *French* Lady, he will give her a Visit. He will do me a great deal of Honour, answer'd I ; but yet I shall be a little perplex'd, for we must sup and go to rest betimes. I had scarce ended these Words, when Don *Frederick* return'd again.

As soon as ever the Archbishop knew there was a strange Lady at *Buitrago*, said he to me, he no more minded me ; and if you please, Madam, he will come and offer you whatever depends on him in this Country.

I answer'd this Civility as I ought ; and Don *Frederick* being return'd to him, conducted him awhile after into my Chamber. I found him extraordinary civil : He spake little, and observ'd the Gravity befitting his Character, and the *Spanish* Nation. He much bewailed my making so long a Journey in so rigorous a Season, intreating me to lay my Commands on him in something wherein he might obey me. This is the usual Compliment

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pliment in this Country. He had a long Caffock over his other Cloaths, of purple Velvet, with high ruffled Sleeves, which reach'd to his very Ears, and a Pair of Spectacles on his Nose:

He sent for a little Monkey which he would needs give my Daughter ; and tho' I was troubled at it, I could not resist his Instances, and the Desires my Daughter had of accepting it. Every Time the Archbishop took Snuff, which he often did, this little Ape reach'd out his Paw to him, and he put some on it, which he made as if he would take. This Prelate told me, the King of *Spain* expected with extreme Impatience the Answer of the Marquiss *de los Balbares*, on the Orders he had given him on the Demand of Mademoiselle from the *French* King. If his Most Catholick Majesty's Greatness be consider'd, continu'd he, this Marriage must needs be esteem'd very honourable ; for when the Sun goes down in one Part of his Dominions, it rises again in another. And this Monarch enjoys not alone his Grandeur ; he has the Pleasure of sharing it to his Subjects ; he is in a Condition to recompense them, to make them happy, to put them into high Places, where their whole Ambition is satisfy'd, wherein they receive the same Honour as Sovereigns: And this is what a King ought to wish, to be in

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a Capacity to recompense magnificently the Services which are render'd him, and force even an unthankful Person to become grateful. It is a surprizing Thing, the Number of Employes for Men of the Sword and the Gown, which his Majesty every Day bestows.

Several Persons have spoken to me of this, as you do, my Lord, said I to him; but I hope to be perfectly instructed in it at *Madrid*. I am able to inform you, at least, in Part of what you would know, reply'd he; some Reasons have obliged me to take a little Abstract, and which, I think I have about me. He immediately deliver'd it to me; and having kept the Copy of it, and it appearing curious to me, I shall therefore here, dear Cousin, translate it for you.

Vice-Royalties which depend on the King of Spain.

Naples, Sicily, Arragon, Valencia, Navarre, Sardinia, Catalonia; and in New Spain, Peru.

Governments of Kingdoms and Provinces.

The States of *Flanders, Milan, Galicia, Biscay*; the Isles of *Majorca and Minorca*. Seven Governments in the *West-Indies*, to wit, the Isles of *Madera, Cape-Verde, Mina,*

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na, St. Thomas, Angola, Brasil, and Algervcs ; in Africa, Ceuta, Margaran ; in the East, the Philippine Islands.

Bishopricks and Archbishopricks in the Most Catholick King's Nomination, since Pope Adrian the Sixth yielded his Right of Nomination.

First, in the two *Castiles* : The Archbishoprick of *Toledo*, whose Archbishop is Primate of *Spain*, Great Chancellor of *Castile*, and Counsellor of State. He speaks to the States, and is in the Council, immediately after the King ; and he is usually consulted on all important Affairs. He has 350000 Crowns a Year, and his Clergy 400000.

The Archbishop of *Braga* in *Portugal*, who is Spiritual and Temporal Lord of the City, and who, for a Mark of his Authority, carries his Crosier in his Hand, and his Sword by his Side, pretends to the Primacy of all *Spain*, and disputes it with the Archbishop of *Toledo* ; because this Primacy was heretofore held at *Seville*, afterwards translated to *Toledo*, by reason of the Invasion of the *Moors*, and that *Toledo* being fallen into their Hands, it was translated to *Braga* ; so that the Archbishop long possess'd this Dignity. But after the *Spaniards* had retaken *Toledo*, the Archbishop redemanded his Primacy, he of *Braga* would not consent to restore it : And this Difference

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rence being not yet terminated, they both assume this Title.

The Archbishoprick of *Seville* is worth 350000 Ducats, and its Chapter above 10000. Nothing can be seen finer than this Cathedral. Among other remarkable Things, there is a Tower built with Brick, near two hundred Feet long, and above a hundred in Height. Another Tower is raised above it, which is so well contriv'd within, that a Man may ride up on horseback to the Top of it. The Outside is all painted and gilt.

The Archbishoprick of *St. James de Compostella* is worth near 60000 Ducats, and its Chapter 100000.

The Archbishoprick of *Granada* is valu'd at 40000 Ducats.

That of *Burgos*, near as much.

The Archbishoprick of *Saragossa*, 50000.

The Archbishoprick of *Avila*, 20000 Ducats a Year.

The Archbishoprick of *Valencia*, 40000.

The Bishoprick of *Astorgas*, 12000.

The Bishoprick of *Cuenza*, more than 50000.

Of *Cordoua*, about Of *Salamanca*, something more.
40000.

Of *Siguenza*, the same. Of *Placentia*, 50000.

Of *Segovia*, 25000. Of *Palencia*, 25000.

Of *Calahorra*, 2000. Of *Jacca*, above 30000.

Of

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Of Malaga, 40000.	Of Orense, 10000.
Of Osma, 22000.	Of Onguela, 10000.
Of Zamora, 20000.	Of Almeria, 5000.
Of Coria, 20000.	Of Guadix, 90000.
Of Ciudad Rodrigo, 10000.	Of Tuy, 4000.
	Of Badajoz, 18000.
Of the Canary-Islands, 12000.	Of Valladolid, 15000.
	Of Huesca, 12000.
Of Lugo, 8000.	Of Tarracon, 14000.
Of Mondonnedo, 10000.	Of Balbastro, 7000.
Of Oviedo, 20000.	Of Albarazin, 6000.
Of Leon, 22000.	Of Tervel, 12000.
Of Pampelune, 28000.	Of Jaca, 6000.
Of Cales, 12000.	

I ought not to omit observing, That the Cathedral of *Cordoua* is extraordinary stately; 'twas built by *Abderhamam*, who ruled over all the *Moors* in *Spain*. It serv'd them for a Mosque in the Year 787. But the Christians having taken *Cordoua* in 1236, they made a Church of this Mosque. It has 24 great Gates, all of them carv'd with Ornaments of Steel; it is 600 Feet long, and 50 wide. It is perfectly well proportion'd, and sustain'd by 850 Pillars, the greatest Part of which are of Jasper, and the others of black Marble, of one Foot and a half Diameter. The Roof is admirably well painted, and one may hence judge of the magnificent Humour of the *Moors*.

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It is hard to believe, after what I have written of the Cathedral of *Cerdoua*, that that of *Leon* is yet more considerable. Yet nothing is truer: And this is what has given Occasion to what is commonly said, that the Church of *Leon* is the finest in all *Spain*, the Church of *Toledo* the richest, that of *Seville* the greatest, and that of *Salamanca* the strongest.

The Cathedral of *Malaga* is admirably well set forth, and justly proportion'd; the Desk in the Quire cost 105000 Crowns, and all the rest answers this Magnificence.

Principalities of Catalonia.

The Archbishoprick of *Tarragon*, and the Archbishoprick of *Barcelona*.

The Bishopricks of *Lerida*, *Ugel*, *Gironne*, *Vich*, *Salsona*, *Tortosa*, *Elm*.

In Italy.

The Archbishopricks of *Brindisi*, *Lanciano*, *Matera*, *Otranto*, *Rocli*, *Salerna*, *Trani*, *Taranto*.

The Bishopricks of *Ariano*, *Acerra*, *Aquila*, *Costan*, *Castlemare*.

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The Kingdom of Naples.

The Bishopricks of *Gaeta, Gallipoli, Giovenazzo, Mefula, Monopoli, Pozzuolo, Potenza, Trivento, Tropea, Dugento.*

Kingdom of Sicily.

The Archbishopricks of *Palerma, Montreal.*

The Bishopricks of *Girgento, Mazara, Messina, Parei, Cefalu, Catana, Syracusa, Malta.*

At Milan.

The Archbishoprick of *Milan*, the Bishoprick of *Vivegano.*

Kingdom of Majorca.

The Bishoprick of *Majorca.*

Kingdom of Sardinia.

The Archbishopricks of *Cagliari, Oristan, Saffari.*

The Bishopricks of *Algeri, Bossa, Ampurias.*

In

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In Africa.

The Bishoprick of *Tangier*, the Bishoprick of *Ceuta*.

In the Indies.

The Archbishoprick of *Goa*.

The Bishopricks of *Madera*, *Angola* in the *Tercera-Isles*, *Cape-Verde*, *St. Thomas*, *Cochin*, *Malara*, *Maliopor*, *Macao*.

From all the Archbishopricks and Bishopricks, there comes nothing to the Pope from the Bishop that dies, nor whilst the Benefice is vacant. It will be a hard Matter to recite the Number of Abbeys and other Dignities to which the King of *Spain* presents.

We shall now mention the six Archbishopricks, and the thirty-two Bishopricks of *New Spain*, of its Isles, and of *Peru*.

The Archbishoprick of the City of *Los Reyes*, Capital of the Province of *Peru*, is valued at near 30000 Crowns a Year.

The Bishopricks of { *Arequipa*, 16000.
Truxillo, 14000.
St. Francisco de Quito,
18000.

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The Bishopricks of { The great Town of
Curco, 24000.
St. John of Victory, 8000
Panama, 6000.
Chili, 5000.
Of Our Lady of Chili,
40000.

Archbishopricks of { Bagota in the Kingdom
of Granada, 14000.
Popaya, 5000.
Carthagena, 6000.
St. Maria, 18000.

The Bishoprick of *Plata*, in the Province of *Los Charcas*, 60000. The Archdeacon of this Bishoprick has 5000. The Master of the Children of the Quire, the Chaunter and Treasurer, each 4000. Six Canons, each 3000. Six other Dignities, valued at each 1800 Crowns. And one may observe by the Riches of the Chapter of *Plata*, that the others have not much less.

The Archbishop of *La Plata* has for Suffragans,

The Bishopricks of { Paz.
Tucuman.
Santa Cruz de la Sierra.
Paraguay de Buen. Ayres
Del Rio de la Plata.

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The Archbishoprick of *St. James*, in the Province of *Tucuman*, is worth 6000 Crowns.

The Bishoprick of *St. Laurence de las Barrancas*, 12000.

The Bishopricks of { *Paraguay*, 16000.
 { *La Santo Trinite*, 15000.

The Archbishoprick of *Mexico*, erected in 1518, 20000 Realles.

The Bishoprick of *Los Angeles*, 50000 Realles.

The Bishoprick of *Valladolid* in the Province of *Mechoacan*, 14000 Crowns.

The Bishopricks of	{	<i>Antequera</i> , 7000.
		<i>Guadalaxara</i> , Province of the <i>New Galicia</i> , 7000.
		<i>Durango</i> , 4000.
		<i>Merida</i> , Capital of the Province of <i>Yucatan</i> , 8000.
		<i>Santiago</i> , in the Province of <i>Guatamala</i> , 8000.
		<i>Santiago Leon</i> , 3000.
		<i>Chiapa</i> 5000.

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The Archbishoprick of *St. Domingo* in the *Spanish Islands*, Primate of the *Indies*, 30000.

Archbishopricks of	{	<i>St. Juan de Porto Rico</i> ,
		50000 Reales.
		The <i>Isles of Cuba</i> , 8000.
		<i>St. Anna de Coro</i> , 8000.
		<i>Camayagua</i> , Capital of
		the Province of <i>Hon-</i>
		<i>duras</i> , 3000.

The Archbishoprick Metropolitan of *Manalia*, Capital of the *Philippine Islands*, 3000 Crowns, which the King is obliged to pay him, by the Bull granted in 1595. The King likewise pays the Chapter the same Sum: This Archbishoprick has three Suffragans; one in the Isle of *Cebu*, the other in that of *Luzon*, and the third in *Camorina*.

Having read the Memorandum which the Archbishop of *Burgos* gave me, and made it to be copy'd out, he withdrew, praying me that I would give him Leave to send his *Olio* to me, because 'twas ready, and that I could not get any Thing better for my Supper. I thank'd him, and told him, the same Reason obliged me to refuse it, seeing without it, he would make as bad a Supper as we.

Yet

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Yet Don *Frederick de Cardonne* was already gone to fetch it, and he return'd laden with a great Silver Pot ; but he was much surpriz'd in finding it fasten'd with a Lock : This is usual in *Spain* : He would needs have the Key of the Cook, who (taking it ill that his Master would not eat his *Olio*) answer'd, he had unfortunately lost the Key in the Snow, and knew not how to open it. Don *Frederick* vex'd at this, would, against my Will, go and acquaint the Archbishop with it, who order'd his *Major-Domo* to look after it. He threaten'd the Cook ; and the Scene pass'd so near my Chamber, that I heard it all : But that which I lik'd best was the Cook's Answer ; who said, *No puedo padecer la rina, siendo Christiano viejo, hidalgo como el Key y pocas mas ;* which is to say, *I cannot bear the being reprimanded, who am of the Race of Old Christians, who are as noble as the King, and something more.*

It is commonly at this Rate the *Spaniards* value themselves. This same Blade was not only vain-glorious, but obstinately conceited : And whatever could be done or said to him, he would not deliver the Key of the Pot ; so that the *Olio* remain'd in it untouch'd for us. We went to Bed late, so that not rising very early, all that I could do before I set out, was to finish this Letter ; and to-morrow I shall begin another,

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another, wherein you will be inform'd of the rest of my Travels.

From Buitrago,
March 13. 1679.



L E T T E R. VII.

WE can easily perceive that we are not far from *Madrid*; the Weather is fair, notwithstanding the Season, and we have no more need of Fire: But it seems very strange to us, that in the Inns which are the nearest to this great Town, you are worse used than in those which are a hundred Leagues distant: You would think you came rather into Desarts, than near a Town where so great a Monarch resides: And I can assure you (dear Cousin) that in our whole Course, I have not met with a House or Castle that has pleased me. I am much amazed at it; for I thought that in this Country, as in ours, I should find fine Walks and curious Seats; whereas you can scarcely see any Trees, save some few which grow in spite of the Soil: And at this Time, when I am but ten Leagues from *Madrid*, my Chamber stands even with the Stable. It is an Hole that needs

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a Light at Noon: But what kind of Light think you? better have none at all; for 'tis a Lamp which banishes all Cheartulness by its glimmering Light, and your Health by its stinking Scent; and go where you will, tho' to the Curate of the Parish, for a Candle, you will not find one; and I doubt much whether there be any in his Church. Here, every where a sad Scene of Poverty presents itself to your Sight. Don *Fernando de Toledo*, who took notice of my Astonishment, assured me, I should see very fine Things at *Madrid*; but I could not forbear telling him, I could not easily imagine it. It is true, the *Spaniards* bear up under their Indigency with such an Air of Gravity as would cheat one, the very Peasants telling their Steps as they walk; they are mighty inquisitive after News, as if their whole Being depended thereon: I have had many of them come into my Chamber without any Ceremony, and without Cloaths on their Backs, or Shoes on their Feet, entreating me to tell them what I knew of the Court of *France*: After I had spoke to them, they have examin'd what I have said, and argu'd on it among themselves, in such a Manner, as shew'd great Sense, and a lively Apprehension. This Nation has ever had something extraordinary among them above others.

There

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There came to see me among others, one of the Townsmen's Wives, a good likely Woman: She carry'd her Child in her Arms, which was a very lean one; he had above a hundred little Hands like those of jointed Babies, hanging about his Neck, and all Sides of him. I ask'd his Mother what this meant? She answer'd me, this was good against Evil Eyes. How! said I to her, do these little Hands hinder one from any Distemper of the Eyes? Undoubtedly, reply'd she; but not as you mean: For you must know, if you please, there are People in this Country, who have such a Poison in their Eyes, that looking steadfastly on a Person, and especially on a young Child, they make him pine away to Death. I saw a Man who had an Evil Eye, and doing Mischief when he look'd with his Eye, he was oblig'd to cover it with a great Plaister: As to the other Eye, it had no Malignity; yet it sometimes happen'd, that being with his Friends; when he saw a great many Fowls together, he would say, chuse which of these you would have me kill. He was shew'd one; he took off his Plaister, looked fixedly on the Fowl, and awhile after, she turn'd several Times round, as giddy, and fell down dead. This Woman likewise would persuade me there are Magicians, who looking on any one with an evil Intention,

tion, strike them with such a Languishment, as makes them become as lean as Skeletons: And her Child, she told me, has been struck in this Manner, and the common Remedy is these little Hands. She moreover told me, it is the Custom, when they see any one look attentively upon them, and the Party has a Look ill enough to fear she should give the *Evil de Ojos* (it is thus called, because it is done by the Eyes) to present her one of these Hands, or even her own shut, and to say to her, *Toma la mano*, which is to say, *Take this Hand*; to which the Party suspected must answer, *Dios la benediga*; *God bless you*; which if she does not, she is judg'd to be ill intention'd; and thereupon, he or she may be sent to the Inquisition; or if you be the stronger, you may beat them till they say, *Dios la benediga*.

I do not assure you as a Thing certain, that the Relation of the Fowls is positively true; but this is certain, that they are here strongly persuaded, there are Persons who can do you hurt by bare looking on you; and here are Churches, to which they go on Pilgrimage to be cured of it. I ask'd this young Woman if there appeared nothing extraordinary in those they call *Mischievous Eyes*? She told me, No; except they are full of such a shining Vivacity,

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Vivacity, that they seem to be all on fire, and would make one think they will pierce you like a Dart. She moreover told me, that of late the Inquisition had caused an old Woman to be seized on, who was accus'd of being a Witch; and she believ'd 'twas she who had put her Child in that piteous Condition I saw it. I ask'd her, what they would do to this Woman? She told me, if there were Proofs strong enough, she would be infallibly burnt, or left in the Inquisition: And that the best Treatment she could chuse, would be to be deliver'd thence by being whipp'd along the Streets: That the Witches are ty'd to Asses Tails, or placed on those Beasts coifed, with Paper Mitres painted with all Colours, with Writings which denoted the Crimes which they have committed: That in this fine Equipage, they are led about the Town, where every one has the Liberty to strike them, or throw Dirt at them. But, said I to her, how know you their Condition would be worse if they remain'd still in Prison? Oh Madam! said she to me, I see you are not yet inform'd what the Inquisition is; whatever can be said of it, comes not near the rigorous Exercises therein: You are seized on, and thrown into a Dungeon; you lie there two or three Months, sometimes more, and sometimes less, without a Word being said

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said to you. At the End of this Time you are led before the Judges, who, with a terrible Look, ask you, why you are there? It is natural to answer, you know not. They say no more to you, but send you back again to this dismal Hole; wherein is every Day suffer'd a thousand times more Trouble than Death itself; yet you are not suffered to die there, but remain many Times a Year in this Condition. At the End of this Time you are brought again before the same Judges, or before others, for they change and go into several Countries: These demand of you again, why you are detain'd? You answer, you have been apprehended, but you know not for what. You are sent again into your Dungeon without any more Words. In short, sometimes you pass your whole Life there. And demanding of her, if it were the Custom for one to accuse himself, she answer'd, that as to some Persons, 'twas the best and shortest Way; but that the Judges took only this Course with those against whom they had no certain Proofs: For commonly, when any one accuses a Person of Capital Crimes, the Accuser was wont to remain in Prison with the Criminal; and this is the Reason of their being a little more moderate. She related to me the particular Punishments, and the whole

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whole Manner of them, with which I will not fill this Letter, nothing being more dreadful. She moreover told me, she knew a *Jew* named *Isbmael*, who was put into the Prison of the *Inquisition of Seville*, with his Father, who was a Rabbin of their Law. It is four Years since they were there, when *Isbmael*, having made a Hole, climb'd up to the Top of a Tower, and making use of Ropes he had provided, he slid down along the Wall with a great deal of Danger ; but having got down, he reproach'd himself for having abandon'd his Father, and without considering the Risk he had ran after more than one Manner, seeing his Father and he were condemn'd, and were to be led in a few Days to *Madrid*, with several others, to suffer there the greatest Torment, yet this hinder'd him not from determining himself: He generously climb'd up the Tower, descend-ed into the Dungeon, drew thence his Father, made him escape before him, and got away himself. I found this Action very brave, and worthy to be set as an Example to Christians, in an Age wherein the most indispensable Obligations are slighted. I continu'd entertaining myself with this *Spanish* Woman, when *Constance*, one of my Women, whom you know, came to tell me with Earnestness, that she now saw Mr. *Daucourt*, and that if I would, she

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would step out and call him. This is a rich Gentleman, whom I knew at *Paris*, a civil Man, of good Sense, and of comely Personage: I knew he had a Brother at *Madrid*, belonging to Don *John* of *Austria*. Having shew'd I should be glad to speak with him, *Constance* went out in quest of him, and brought him to me. After the first Civilities, and informing myself of the News of my Kinswoman, whom I believed he knew, I asked him of his own Affairs, and whether he was content with his Journey. Ah! Madam, speak to me no more of my Journey, cry'd he; there was never a more unfortunate one, and had you come some Days sooner, you might have seen me hang'd. How! said I to him, what do you mean by this? I mean, said he to me, that I had all the Fear of it; and this is the most unpleasant Country in the World for Strangers: But, Madam, if you are at leisure, and would know more, I will relate to you my Adventure: It is singular, and will fully prove to you what I have told you. You will do me a great deal of Pleasure; said I to him; we are here in a Place where such a Relation will much divert us. He began it in this Manner:

Some Affairs wherein I was concern'd, and the Desire of seeing a Brother whom I had been away from some Years, oblig'd me,

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me, Madam, to undertake this Journey to *Madrid*. I was little acquainted with the Customs of that Place: I imagin'd one might go to Women without Difficulty, and that one might play and eat with them; but I was astonish'd to learn, that every one of them is more retir'd in her House, than a *Carthusian* in his Cell; and that there are Persons who have been mutually in Love for two or three Years, and yet had never spoke to one another: Such singular Manners seem'd ridiculous to me: I said thereupon freely whatever came into my Head; but I treated the Matter more seriously, when I understood, these Women who were so closely confin'd, were the most amiable Women in the World; that they had such a Delicacy, Vivacity, and Manners, as no where to be met with but among them; that Love always appear'd new; that no one would change a *Spanish* Woman but for another. I was in the greatest Despair at the Difficulties there were to get at them. One of my Friends, named *Belleville*, who was my Companion in my Journey, and who is a brisk Lad, was no less troubled on his Side than I on mine: My Brother, who fear'd lest some vexatious Accident should befall us, continually inculcated into us, how jealous Husbands are in this Country, great Murderers, and no more valu'd the

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killing

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killing of a Man than a Fly. This did not agree very well with two Men who were not as yet weary of living.

We went into all Parts where we thought we might see Ladies : We saw some in Effect, but this did not satisfy us ; all the Bows and Cringes we made them brought forth nothing ; we each of us return'd home every Night very weary, and disgusted at our fruitless Circuits.

One Night, *Belleville* and I went upon Design to the *Prado*, which is a Walk adorn'd with great Trees, and several Fountains: They throw their Water a great Height, and in great Gushes it falls into Basons ; from whence it runs (when they have a Mind) into the Courses to water them, and so to make them fresh and pleasant, It was the finest Weather this Evening that one could wish. After we had alighted out of our Coach, and sent it away, we began to walk softly ; and having made a few Turns, we sat us down on the Side of one of the Fountains, and then began to make our usual Complaints. Dear *Belleville*, said I to my Friend, shall we never be so happy to meet with one of these witty and charming *Spanish* Women, so much boasted of ? Alas ! says he, I desire it too much, but dare not hope it: Hitherto we have met nothing but such ugly Creatures, as run after Folks to
fright

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fright them ; and who, under their white Veils, are more tawny and loathsome than the *Bohemians* : Such as these, I swear to you, do not please me at all ; and notwithstanding their Sprightfulness, I cannot consent to enter into a near Conversation with them.

At the very Instant these Words were out of his Mouth, we spy'd, coming out a Door hard by, two Women : They had left off their upper Garments, which were always very plain ; and when they open'd their Mantua's, the Light of the Moon made the Glory of their Gold and precious Stones appear. As God's true, cries out *Belleville*, here's at least two Fairies ! Nay, said I, let's be juster, and think them not other than two Angels. When they came near us, we stood up, and made them the lowest Bow that ever we did in our Lives. They pass'd by us softly ; and with those little apish Tricks, which become the *Spaniards* so well, they look'd at us, first with one Eye, and then with t'other. They went on a little : We were in Pain what to think, whether they would return back the same Way, or whether we should follow them : But while we were deliberating, we perceived them to approach us. When they were near us, they stood still : One of them began to speak, and ask'd us if we could speak

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Spanish? I see by your Habits, said she, that you are Strangers. But pray tell me, of what Country are you? We told her we were *Frenchmen*, and that we spoke *Spanish* ill enough; but we had a great mind to learn to speak it well: That to succeed therein, we were persuaded we must love a *Spanish* Woman, and we heartily wish'd we might find one that desired to be belov'd. The Matter is nice, reply'd the other Lady, who had not yet spoke; and I should be sorry for her who engages in such a Design, for I have heard that *Frenchmen* are not faithful. Oh! Madam, says *Belleville*, this was somebody who had a mind to do us an ill Turn, and put us out of your good Opinion; but it will be easy to wipe off this Aspersion. Tho' I may soon give my Heart to a pretty Woman, yet I am very sensible I cannot so easily call it back again. What! said she that spoke to me before, dare you, without farther Consideration, enter into such Engagement at first Sight? I should not have quite so good an Opinion of you. Oh! Madam, cries he, why should we lose our precious Time? If it is good to love at all, it is good to begin as soon as 'tis possible. Hearts that are born to love, languish and decay, when they are not exercised therein. Your Maxims are fine, reply'd she; but they seem dan-

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dangerous: It is not only necessary to avoid following of them, but even the hearing of them. And then, indeed, they would have been gone, but we begg'd them, with great Earnestness, to tarry a few Moments longer in the *Prado*. We said all the pretty Things to them both, which might oblige them to discover themselves, and give us the Satisfaction of seeing them without their Veils. Our Conversation was very brisk, and pleasant enough. They had abundance of Wit; and as they knew how to manage all their Advantages, so, without Affectation, they show'd us their Hands, as they had occasion to mend the fitting of their Head-Dresses; and they were whiter than the Snow. In spite of their seeming Care to hide themselves, yet we saw enough to observe their delicate Complexion, their brisk Eyes, and their Features very regular. You may be sure we left them as late as we could, and that we conjur'd them to make that Walk happy sometimes with their Presence, or else give us leave to wait on them at their House. They agreed to nothing; and, indeed, we were several Times after that, at the *Prado*, and near that Fountain where we first saw them, without being able to perceive them. Here's a deal of Time lost, said we: What must we do to pass our Lives

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in this great Want of Employment? for we must renounce the Thoughts of Ladies, whose Access is so difficult. This was our Resolution; but it held not long: For scarce had we made it, but we saw come out of the same House the two Incognito's. We drew near them, full of Respect, and our civil Carriage did not displease them. *Belleville* took the least by the Hand, and I the biggest. I endeavour'd to persuade her with what Impatience I expected her. I blamed her a little; at which she seem'd somewhat concern'd: But taking more Courage, I discoursed to her of the Thoughts she had inspir'd me with; and assured her, that it was in her Power to engage me for my whole Life. She seem'd extreme careful not to give the least Mark of Favour. At length, amongst other Things, she told me, that she was Heiress to a great Estate, that her Name was *Ines*, that her Father was Knight of the Order of *St. James*, and was of a considerable Quality; that she who was with her was call'd *Isabella*, and that they were Cousins. All these Particulars pleased me well, finding her a Person of Birth, and therein my Vanity flatter'd. At parting, I begg'd her to give me leave to come to see her. What you desire of me, said she, is the Custom of your Country; and if I were there, I would please myself to observe

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serve it ; but we have different : And tho' I do not conceive any Crime in what you ask me, yet I am oblig'd to observe certain Rules of Decency, which by no means I will transgress. I will contrive some other Way to see you ; and of this depend upon me, and do not take it ill, that I refuse you a Thing which is not in my Power to grant. Adieu, continu'd she, I will think of what you desire, and will let you know what I can do. I kiss'd her Hand, and so withdrew, extremely touch'd with her Way, as well as at her Wit and her Prudence.

As soon as I was alone with *Belleville*, I ask'd him if he was pleas'd with the Conversation he had enjoy'd. He answer'd me, that he had great Cause to be so, and that *Isabella* seem'd to be of a Nature sweet and amiable. You are very happy, said I, already to have found so much Kindness: *Ines* gives me no Room to hope for any ; she's of a gay Humour, and turns every Thing I say to her into Jest ; and I despair ever to make her serious. Some Days pass'd before we either saw or heard from them ; but one Morning as I was at Mass, an old Woman, hid under a Veil, comes up to me, and presents me a Billet, in which I read these Words:

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YOU appear too amiable to me, to see you often; and I must needs confess to you, that I a little mistrust my own Heart: If yours is truly touch'd for me, Marriage must be thought on. I have told you that I am rich, and I have told you the Truth: That Part which I offer you, is not inconvenient to take: But consider of it, and in the Evening I shall be on the Banks of Mansanarez, where you may let me know your Thoughts.

As the Place where I was, did not allow me to write her an Answer, so I contented myself to note only on my Table-Book these Lines:

YOU have Power to make me take what Journey you please. I am very sensible that I love you too well to be at Ease, and that I have more Cause to suspect my own Weakness, than you have to be afraid of yours: However, I shall be at Mansanarez, being resolved to obey you, whatever you command me.

I gave my Table-Book to this honest Messenger, who had the Assurance to steal off the Plates and Clasps before she would deliver it. I desired Belleville to let me go
alone

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alone to this Affignation : He told me; he was very glad of it ; for *Isabella* had given him notice, that she desired to speak with him alone at the *Florid*. It was with Impatience that we waited for the appointed Hour, and then we quitted each other, after having wish'd ourselves good Success in our Adventure.

As soon as I came to the River Side, I carefully look'd at all the Coaches which pass'd by ; but it was hard for me to discover any Thing, because they had double Curtains drawn. But at last there came one, and stopp'd ; and I perceived a Woman in it, who gave me a Sign to approach. There was *Ines*, who was more conceal'd than usual, and I could not know her, but by her Voice. How industriously you hide yourself, said I to her : Do you think, Madam, that the Thoughts of not being able to see you, and the violent Desires I have for it, are not enough to kill me with Grief ? If you'll come along with me, says she, you shall see me ; but for the present I must hoodwink you. To be free with you, said I to her, till now you have appear'd very amiable to me ; but this mysterious Carriage, which serves to no End but to make me suffer, is troublesome. If I am so unhappy to be thought by you an unfaithful Man, you ought not at all to trust me ; but if on the contrary, I am in
your

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your good Opinion, you ought to declare it by a more ingenuous Proceeding. Interrupting me, says she, You ought to be persuaded, that I have strong Reasons for what I do, since, notwithstanding what you have now told me, I alter not my Resolution: The Thing, however, is at your Choice; but for my own Part, I will not let you come into my Coach, but upon that Condition. As the *Spaniards* are naturally obstinate, I rather chose to suffer my Eyes to be cover'd, than break off with her. I must needs own, that these Appearances of good Fortune had filled me with some sort of Vanity; and I fancy'd myself with some Princess, who for the present had no mind I should know her; but afterwards that I should find her one of the most perfect and rich Women of *Spain*. This Conceit hinder'd me any longer from opposing her Will. I told her, I submitted to be hoodwink'd, and even to be blinded by her, if she could please herself in the Action. She ty'd her Handkerchief about my Head, so hard, that at first she put me in terrible Pain. I sat down by her; it was now dark; I knew not whither we were going, but gave myself up intirely into her Power.

She had with her two Women. The Coach mov'd so long, that I believe we pass'd thro' most of the Streets of *Madrid*.

She

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She entertain'd me with such witty Discourse, that I had no need to think the Time or Way long: And I was even charm'd with hearing her, when our unlucky Coach, which was but a mean one, ran upon another, and all on a sudden was overturn'd; and we happen'd to fall in a Place call'd the *Maree*, which is one of the greatest and nastiest Ditches in the City. I was never so vexed in my Life. The three Ladies fell upon me; they almost stifled me; and I was even deaf with their Noise, having my Eyes bound, and my Head turn'd about after a strange Fashion. I could not have my Share of making a Noise, without swallowing a great deal of this stinking Water. I then began to make some Reflections on the unlucky Hours of a Man's Life; and tho' I dearly lov'd *Ines*, yet I found that I lov'd myself more, and wish'd I had never seen her. I cannot positively tell how Things pass'd; but I felt myself deliver'd from the heavy Weight which so oppress'd me; and when, by the Help of some People which drew me out, I got upon my Legs, I could neither see *Ines*, nor her Companions. The Folks which stood about me, laugh'd like so many Fools, to see me hoodwink'd, and so cover'd with this black Water, that I look'd as if I had come out of an Ink-Tub. I ask'd the Coachman where his

Mistress

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Mistress was. He told me, the Lady with whom I was, was none of his Mistress, and that she went away cursing of me; that she was very dirty; that he knew her not; and that she only said to him at going away, that I must pay him. And, Prithee, said I, where didst thou take her up? He answer'd me, at the Gate *Delcalcas Realles*, and that an old Woman came for him, and brought him to the Place where he took her up. For my Money I got him to carry me home. I expected *Belleville* with a Mixture of Impatience and Grief: It was late before he came; and he was extreamly satisfy'd with *Isabella*, in whom he found Abundance of good Nature, and an infinite deal of Wit.

I related to him my Adventure. He could not but laugh heartily at it; and as he was filled with an extraordinary Joy, he told me a hundred pleasant Stories, which put me horribly out of Humour. It was Day-Light before we went to Bed, and I had not got up, but to take a Walk with him in the *Prado*. As we were going along by some very low Windows, I heard *Ines* cry out to me, *Cavalero*, go not so fast; it is at least fit to ask you how you do after your Fall last Night? Advancing to the Window, pray, said I to her, what became of you, fair *Ines*? And had not I Misfortunes enough,

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enough, but I must lose you too? You had not lost me, reply'd she, but that a Lady, who was my Relation, passing by in that Moment, knew my Voice; and I was oblig'd against my Mind to go with her in her Coach, for I was unwilling she should see us together. Tho' the Coachman told me another Story, yet I durst not examine any farther into the Matter, for fear of making her uneasy; and with abundance of Kindness, I ask'd her when I should have an Opportunity without any Restraint, to let her know what a mighty Passion and Respect I had for her? It shall be very quickly, says she, for now I begin to think you love me; but yet Time must confirm me in this Opinion. Oh! you are very cruel, said I, and must have very little Love for me, thus to defer what I so earnestly beg. Speak the Truth freely, says she; and tell me, whether you will marry me. Yes, said I; if you will, I'll marry you, notwithstanding I never had a full Sight of you, nor have had the Happiness to know you. I am rich, said she, and am of Birth; and they tell me, I have some Personal Merits. I reply'd, you have all the Things which please me, beyond any Person in the World: Your Wit hath charm'd me; but you make me often despair, and I had much rather chuse to die at once,
than

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than suffer what I do. She fell a laughing ; and after that there were few Evenings that we did not converse together, either at the *Prado*, or at *Manzanarez*, or else at some House unknown to me, whither I was conducted. I must confess, I never went into the Chamber with her, and I only talk'd to her thro' the Grates of the Window ; where, for four Hours together, I used to make the most impertinent Figure in the World. To speak freely, one must live in *Spain*, to be able to endure such Ways and Customs : But yet really I lov'd *Ines* ; I observ'd in her something that was very smart and taking, which surprized and affected me.

One Time we met in a Garden, where she had appointed me to be, and where she shew'd me more Kindness than she us'd to do. When she saw it begin to be dark, she desir'd me to be gone : I unwillingly obey'd her ; and as I went along a narrow Street, I perceived three Men with Sword in Hand set upon one single Man, who defended himself valiantly. I could not endure to see so unequal a Match, and I run to second him ; but just as I came up to him, they made a Pass at him, and he fell upon me like a dead Man. These Murderers ran away as fast as they could ; and by this Time, the Noise had drawn out a great many People, who, seeing

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seeing me with my Sword in Hand, did not doubt but that I was one of the Criminals. They prepared to seize me ; but perceiving their Intentions, I thought it was better to provide for my Safety by Flight, than to trust to my Innocence. I was closely pursu'd ; and which Way soever I took, still they met with me. In this Distress, I had a Glimpse of a Door half open : I slip't into it without any body's seeing me, and groping along, I came at last into a very dark Hall. I perceived Light thro' a Door. I could not tell whether it was best to open it, nor what I should say, if there were People in it. I consider'd with myself, that I had the Looks of one affrighted, and that I should be taken for a Man that came from doing some ill Action, and sought for an Opportunity to do some other. I deliberated a long Time. I listen'd with great Attention, to hear some body talk ; and hearing none, at last I ventur'd, and softly open'd the Door, and saw no body. I nimbly look'd about where to hide myself ; methought the Hangings stuck out in some Places, and really I got behind them in a little Corner. I had been there but a very little while when I espy'd coming in, *Ines* and *Isabella*. I cannot express to you, Madam, what a pleasant Amazement I was in, to find myself in
my

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my Mistress's House : I no ways doubted, that Fortune favour'd my Design ; I was in no fear of those who might search after me ; and as I was even ready to go and throw myself down at her Feet, I heard *Isabella* begin to discourse : Says she, What hast thou been doing to day, dear *Ines* ? hast thou seen *Daucourt* ? Yes, says *Ines*, I have seen him ; and I have Reason to believe he loves me desperately, unless all my Rules deceive me : He talks very seriously of marrying me ; that which perplexes me is, that he will first see and know me. And how is it possible for thee to deny either the one or the other ? replies *Isabella*. No, I do not pretend to do it, answers *Ines* ; only I'll take the most favourable Opportunities : I fancy I shall not think it cunning to set myself to a full Light, and all the Curtains open : No ; I intend they shall be close drawn, and that the Windows shall only let in some glimmering Rays of the Sun, which shall serve to set me off. As to my Birth, I have got my Pedigree authentically drawn, which cost me nothing but a little old Parchment gnaw'd by the Mice. And as to ready Money, thou knowest my old Lover, honest Don *Diego*, will furnish me : When *Daucourt* has told and received it, he will little think that Thieves are appointed to take it away from him upon.

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upon our Wedding-Night. I have this Day taken very fair Lodgings ready furnish'd; so that thou wilt yield, I have neglected nothing which might contribute to the Success of a Business so advantageous to me, and which I so much desire. Says *Isabella*, thy Precautions seem very wise; but yet I fear the Discovery of the Intrigue. But, says *Ines*, Prithee, my Dear, What dost thou do? As to Marriage, I make but a small Progress, says *Isabella*; but to speak Truth, that is not my Design. I find *Belleville* an honest Man; I am sensible that I love him; I only desire the Possession of his Heart, and I fancy I should be sorry if he would marry me. Thou art of an odd sort of Honour, says *Ines*: Thou lovest him, thy Fortune is none of the greatest, thou mightest be happy with him, and yet thou dost not desire to be his Wife. But, Prithee, says *Isabella*, who told thee, that I should be happy with him? Love is so unconstant a Thing, that hardly are the first Moments of Marriage pleasant: I tell thee, Love must have something continually to provoke and spur it. Novelty is a grateful Dish to it, and how is it possible for a Wife always to be new? And how can a Mistress either, cries *Ines*, be so? Go, *Isabella*, thy modish Maxims are not reasonable. Neither, says *Isabella*, can I like of what thou designest; and

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and if thou wouldst take my Advice, thou shouldst seriously consider thy own Age: For to speak freely, thou art old, very old. Is it just for sixty Years to put a Cheat upon a Man of Thirty? He will be enrag'd at thee; he will certainly forsake thee, or else he'll break thy Bones; nay, it may happen, he'll knock thy Brains out before he leaves thee. *Ines* was of a quick Apprehension, and brisk: She took it heinously that *Isabella* should reproach her with her Age, and immediately she gave her the greatest Box on the Ear which perhaps ever was given. The other, of as hasty a Nature, return'd her two. *Ines* lent her a dozen good Cuffs with her Fist, which were speedily repaid; so that my two Female Champions enter'd the Field of *Mars*. The Combat was so extream pleasant between them, that I almost broke my Sides a laughing in my little Hole. I had much ado to hinder myself from breaking out aloud: for you may easily believe, Madam, that I had very little Concern for either of them, after the Trick which I understood was to be put upon me, with so much Malice, and when I must necessarily look upon *Ines* as a common Jilt. *Isabella*, who knew all the weak Places of her Enemy, took her Opportunities; and being both younger and stronger, tore off her Head-dress, and left her
all

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all bald. In my whole Life I was never more surprized, than to see the Hair fall off, which before appeared so lovely to me, and which I thought had been her own: But this was nothing to what follow'd; for with one Blow of her Fist, she not only made several of her Teeth leap out of her Mouth, but also two little Cork Plumpers, which serv'd to fill out her hollow Jaws. And here the Fray ended; for their Chamber-Maids, who had heard the Noise of the Skirmish, run in, and with much adparted them. They said the bitterest Things one against the other, and even threaten'd to reveal to the Inquisition most terrible Crimes, with which they reproached each other.

Ines finding herself with her Chamber-Maid alone, look'd at herself a long Time in a great Glais, and protested that there was nothing so injurious, which she had not said to *Isabella*, that she might be reveng'd of her for the Abuses she had receiv'd from her. At last she sat down, and rested herself awhile: A little Table was brought and set before her, and upon it she lays an artificial Eye, which used to fill up the Place of a natural one she wanted: Afterwards, she takes off of her Face, as much white and red Colour, as, without any Hyperbole, would have cover'd a Mask. It would be hard to describe

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scribe to you, Madam, the extraordinary Uglinefs of this Woman, who, till now, had appeared to me very pretty. I rubb'd my Eyes; I was like a Man that could not tell whether he doted, or had some idle Dream. To be fhort, ſhe undreſt herſelf, and was almoſt naked: And here I ſhall forbear repreſenting to you this frightful Carcaſe; but certainly, Love never met with a better Cure. In all thoſe Parts where other Folks are fat and plump, ſhe was lean and hollow: She look'd perfectly like a Skeleton, which by ſome ſecret Spring was made to move about the Room: She was in a Gown with a white Mantle upon her Shoulders, her Head bald, and her Arms appeared extream little and lean. She bethought herſelf, that in the Scuffle her Pearl Bracelets broke; ſhe had a mind to gather them up, but had enough to do to find them: Her Chamber-Maid came to help her; they counted them, and found they had all but two, which were well curs'd for my ſake. *Ines* ſwore by *St. James*, Patron of *Spain*, that ſhe would not go to Bed till ſhe had found them: Her Maid and ſhe look'd in every Corner and Hole, removing the Tables, tumbling the Chairs, and throwing this Way and that Way every Thing they came near; for *Ines* was in a very ill Humour. As I ſaw her make towards my Corner, Fear

of

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of being discover'd by such a Fury, made me lie as close as 'twas possible : But unluckily, as I drew back, I threw down several Bottles, which stood there upon Shelves, and these made a mighty Noise. *Ines* believing it was the Cat which had done this Mischief, with all her Might, cry'd *Gato! Gato!* that is, *Cat, Cat*; and lifting up the Hangings, to chastise the Cat, with an Amazement and Rage, which almost struck her dead upon the Spot, she espy'd me. She fell violently upon me, and pull'd the Hair off my Head; she revil'd me grievously; she was like one frantick: The Veins of her Neck were so swell'd, and her Wrinkles and Furrows were so frightful, that methoughts I saw the Head of *Medusa*; and in this my great Terror I consider'd my Escape, when on a sudden I heard a strange Noise upon the Stairs, which gave me a fresh Alarm: But *Ines* left me, and run down to know what was the Matter; and by that Time the whole House was fill'd with Cries and Weeping: The Officers of Justice, who had found this young Man (of whom I told you before, Madam) lying upon the Ground, and was the Cause I was so hotly pursu'd, after some diligent Search, found that he was the Son of a Lady who liv'd in the same House: They brought him thus, with his Body all wounded

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wounded and bloody, at which sad Sight she fell into a desperate Condition. And as I had told *Ines* something of my Adventure, that I might give her some Satisfaction why I came into her Chamber, so this lean Hag would not keep my Secret; but to be revenged on me for having discover'd her crafty Tricks, was resolved to inform against me. I have the Murderer in my Power, cries she; come along with me, and I'll deliver him up to you. Immediately she opens her Chamber-Door; and, being follow'd by a Troop of *Alquazils*, that is to say, Serjeants or Bailiffs, deliver'd me up to them, with all necessary Evidence for my speedy Trial. Says she, I saw this Wretch with his naked Sword all bloody with the Wound he came from giving: He ran into my Chamber to save himself, and threaten'd me with Death if I would not conceal him. Whatever I could say in my Justification was all in vain, they would not so much as hear me: They bound my Hands with Cords, and so led me to Prison as a wretched Malefactor; whilst good *Ines*, and the Mother and Sister of the Wounded, loaded me with Blows and Curses. They caus'd me to be put into a Hole, where I was several Days, without having the Liberty to give notice to my Brother or my Friends of what had pass'd: They
likewise

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likewise were in mighty Pain about me, concluding for certain, that I was murder'd in some Corner of a Street, or else at some of my Night-Intrigues.

At last, *Belleville* who still continu'd to see *Isabella*, acquainted her with his Grief, and begg'd her to assist him to discover, at least, what they had done with my Body. She was so industrious to get Information about it, that *Ines's* Chambermaid, who had been ill enough used by her Mistress, told her the whole Secret of the History, altho' her good Lady had strictly forbid her. Upon this News, my Brother ran to beg the King to have pity on me, and to command them to remove me out of that Hole, which seem'd more like Hell than a Prison. I swoon'd away when I saw Light. I was so wasted and weak, that I frighted Folks; but yet I could not come out of Prison for some Time, because of certain Formalities: And I leave you to think, Madam, what I meditated against the perfidious *Ines*; but yet I knew not whether ever I should be in a Condition to put in Execution all the Projects of my just Revenge; for the Gentleman, who was wounded continued very ill, and his Life was despair'd of. Mine depended upon such a ticklish Point, that I put up most ardent Prayers for him;

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and in such a melancholy Uncertainty I pass'd a great many Hours. But my Brother, who was perswaded of my Innocence, omitted nothing for the Discovery of the Authors of this murderous Act. At last, he understood that this young and wounded *Cavalero* had a Rival, and he made so diligent a Search and Examination, that he certainly knew that the Blow came from thence. He was so fortunate to get him apprehended; and this Man freely own'd the Fact, which acquitted me. I was therefore set at Liberty, and I conceiv'd so much Joy at it, that I was sick for several Days after; or rather, perhaps, it was an Effect of that unwholesome Air which I received in the Prison.

In the mean while, wicked *Ines*, who to be sure was not much at ease, for Fear of what might happen upon her serving me such a pleasant Trick, having notice that I was set free, and in a Condition to reward her according to her Merit, pack'd up her Baggage, and one Night privately ran away, and no body knew whither she was gone; so that when we wanted her, at least to make her an Example among the cheating Jilts, we were disappointed. But I was easily satisfy'd, because naturally I do not love to do any hurt to Women. But lest she might play
me

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me some other Pranks, I left *Madrid*, that I might also avoid those of *Spain*. I am now returning into *France*, Madam, continu'd he, whither I shall be very glad to carry your Commands, if you'll do me so great an Honour to lay any upon me.

Tho' I have some Trouble at what happen'd to this Gentleman, yet I could not chuse but laugh at some Circumstances of this Adventure: And I am willing to believe, dear Cousin, that you will not be displeased that I make you partake with me. I shall write to you no more till I come to *Madrid*, where I promise myself to see Things far more worthy of your Notice, than hitherto I have been able to acquaint you.

From St. Augustin,
March 25.



L E T T E R VIII.

I Would not, if you please, dear Cousin, have you angry, that I did not write to you as soon as I arriv'd at *Madrid*; I thought it was better to tarry till I was in a Condition to tell you something more

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exactly

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exactly and curious. I knew that my Kinswoman was to go before me as far as *Alcouendus*, which is about six Leagues distant from *Madrid*. As she was not yet come, and I had a mind to stay for her, *Don Frederick de Cardonne* proposed to me to go dine at a very fine House, the Master whereof was his particular Acquaintance : So that instead of going into this Village, we cross'd by it, and thro' a Walk pleasant enough, we came to the House of *Don Augustin Pacheco*. This Gentleman is antient, and yet he is lately marry'd to *Donna Theresa de Figucroa*. This is his third Wife ; and she is but seventeen Years of Age, but of such an agreeable Humour, and so ingenious, that we were perfectly charm'd with her Wit and her Person. It was Ten a-Clock when we got there. The *Spaniards* are naturally lazy, and love to rise late ; and these two were yet in Bed. Her Husband gave us such a frank and civil Reception, as sufficiently testify'd how much he was pleas'd that we came to see him. He went to walk in his Gardens, whose Exactness yields in nothing to ours. I accompany'd him without Delay ; for the Weather was very inviting ; and the Trees in this Country are as forward in the Month of *March*, as they are in *France* at the latter End of *June*.

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June. Indeed this is the most charming Season for the Enjoyment of what they call *la Prima Vera*, that is to say, *the Beginning of the Spring*: For when the Sun begins to have more Force and Heat, it scorches and withers the Leaves, as if they had pass'd thro' Flames. These Gardens, of which I speak, were adorn'd with Bowling-Greens, Fountains and Statues; and Don *Augustin* was not backward to shew us all the Rarities. He is much taken with them, and values not the spending Money thereon; for he is very rich. He led us into a Gallery, where there were divers Tables of Cedar-Wood, set full of Books. He immediately led us up to the biggest of them, and told us, they contain'd an inestimable Treasure; and that there was a Collection of Plays of the best Authors. Hêretofore, continu'd he, virtuous Persons could not think fit to go to Plays; there were nothing to be seen but Actions contrary to Modesty; they heard Discourses, which were offensive; the Actors made honest People asham'd; their Vice was flatter'd, and Virtue condemn'd; the Scenes became bloody with Combats; the Weakest was always oppress'd by the Strongest; and Custom gave Continuance to Crimes. But since *Lopez de Vega* hath so successfully labour'd to reform

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the *Spanish* Theatre, there is now nothing suffer'd contrary to good Manners ; both the Favourite, the Footman, and the Ploughman, without Disguise, keeping to their native Simplicity ; and making that pleasant, by an ingenious Turn, he has found the Secret to cure Princes, and even our Kings, of that common Disease, not to hear Truth when their own Faults are represented. It was he who gave Rules for these Ascents ; and who taught them to divide their Plays into three *Jordana's* or Acts. Since his Time, we have seen flourish the *Montalvanes*, the *Mendoza's*, the *Rojas Alarcones*, the *Veles*, the *Mira de Mesquas*, the *Coellos*, and the *Villaizanes*. But above all, Don *Pedro Calderone* excell'd as to the serious and grave Part ; and even in the comick Part, he surpasses all those that went before him. I could not forbear telling him, that at *Victoria* I saw a Play, which to me seem'd bad enough : And if I might speak my Judgment freely, I would not have them intermix with holy Tragedies (which require great Respect, and, according to their Subjects, should be worthily managed,) any idle or silly Jest. He reply'd, that by this I had said to him, he knew the Genius of my Country ; that he had seldom observ'd the *French* to like what the *Spaniards* did : And as
this

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this Thought carry'd him to some displeasing Reflections, I assur'd him, that naturally, we had no Antipathy for any Nation; that we even thought ourselves obliged to do justice to our Enemies. And as to Plays, tho' I yet had found none to my Fancy, it did not follow, but that there might be others much better and more agreeable to me. The Manner of my talking to him, did a little compose him; so that he desir'd me to go into his Wife's Apartment, which was at the End of the Gallery.

Don *Fernando de Toledo*, and the three other Knights, tarry'd there; because it is not the Custom in *Spain* for Men to go into the Women's Chambers while they are in Bed. A Brother has not this Privilege, unless his Sister be sick. Donna *Theresa* receiv'd me in as kind and obliging a Manner, as if she had been long acquainted. And this must be confess'd, in Praise of the *Spaniards*, that nothing of that Sort of Familiarity, which comes from Want of, or a mean Education, appears in their Entertainments; for with great Civility and Earnestness they are very careful to pay what they owe to others, and at the same Time do not forget what's due to themselves. She was in Bed, without any Coif, or Coronet: Her

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Hair was parted in the Middle of her Forehead, ty'd behind with a Ribband, and wrapp'd up with Carnation-colour'd Taffaty : Her Shift was very fine, and of so vast a Largeness, that it look'd like a Surplice ; the Sleeves were as big as Men's, and button'd at the Hands with Diamonds : Instead of narrow Point at the Neck and Hands, she had her's wrought with blue and Flesh-colour'd Silk in Flowers ; her Ruffles were of white Taffaty pink'd. — She had several little Pillows ty'd with Ribbands, and trimm'd with very broad and fine Lace : She had Boffes all of Flowers of *Point de Spain* in Silk and Gold, which look'd very pretty : Her Bed was all of Copper, with little gilt Balls of Ivory and Ebony ; her Bed's Head was adorn'd with four Rows of little Copper Ballisters very well wrought.

She ask'd me leave to rise ; but when she came to put on her Stockings and Shoes, she caus'd the Key to be taken out of the Door, and that to be bolted. I enquir'd the Reason of this Barricading. She told me, that she knew there were with me some *Spanish* Gentlemen, and that she had rather lose her Life, than they should see her Feet. I broke out into Laughter, and begg'd her to let me see them ; for that I could not apprehend that
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the Thing was of that Moment. It is true indeed, that for their Littleness, they are something extraordinary ; for I have seen Children of six Years old have as great. As soon as she was up, she took a little Cup full of Red, and with a good big Pencil she laid it on, not only upon her Cheeks, her Chin, under her Nose, above her Eye-Brows, and the Edges of her Ears, but she also bedawb'd the Inside of her Hands, her Fingers, and her Shoulders. She told me, that every Night at going to Bed, and every Morning at rising, they laid this Colour on ; that she did not paint, and that she was willing enough to leave the Use of this Red, but that it was such a general Custom, that it could not be dispensed with ; for, let one be of never so fresh a Colour, they would look pale and sickly when they were near others, if they did not use this Red. One of her Women perfum'd her from Head to Foot with excellent Pastils, the Smoke whereof she made to ascend to her : Another took Orange-Flower Water in her Mouth, and dexterously thro' her Teeth she sprinkled it like Rain upon her ; and this they call *Roussia*. She told me, that there was nothing that spoil'd the Teeth more, than this Way of squirting it, but that the Water smelt the better for it. Of this I

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doubted ;

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doubted ; and I thought it very ugly, that an old Woman, such as that I saw there, should come and spurt Water out of her Mouth in my Face.

Don *Augustin* having known by one of his Wife's Servants, that she was dress'd, did not stand upon the Custom of the Country ; but led Don *Fernando* and the Knights into her Chamber. This Conversation was not long in common, but we divided. For my Part, I discoursed with Donna *Theresa* ; and she told me, she was born at *Madrid*, but was brought up at *Lisbon*, with her Grandmother, who was Sister to Don *Augustin Pacheco*, so that her Husband was her Great Uncle ; and this Sort of Alliances are often contracted in *Spain*. She talk'd to me much of the young Infanta of *Portugal*, and boasted mightily of her Wit ; and told me, if I would go into her Closet, I might judge of her Beauty, for she had her Picture there. I immediately went, and was surprized with the Charms I observ'd in this Princess : She had her Hair cut and curl'd like the Perriwig of an Abbot, and an Invention for preserving Children from falling, so big, that there were upon it two Baskets of Flowers, and little Vessels of a Medicinal Earth, of which they eat a great deal in *Portugal* and *Spain*, altho' 'tis

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an Earth that hath little Taste. Donna *Theresa* shew'd me the Skin of a Serpent which her Husband kill'd in the *Indies*; and tho' it was dead, yet I was afraid of it: Those of this Kind are extreme dangerous; but it seems as if Providence had taken care to preserve Men from them; for these Serpents have a sort of Bell about their Heads, which rings when they move, and so gives notice to Travellers to secure themselves.

This young Lady, who is a great Lover of *Portugal*, discoursed to me much in its Favour. She told me, that the Sea, which flows up into the *Tagus*, renders that River capable to bear the greatest Galeons, and the fairest Ships upon the Ocean: That the City of *Lisbon* stands upon the Side of a little Hill which insensibly descends to the very Brink of the *Tagus*; so that the Houses being built one above another, are all seen at once, and so become a very pleasant Prospect. The Old Walls which the *Moors* built about it, are still standing: There are of them four Rounds, built at divers Times; the last may have about six Leagues Circumference. The Castle, which stands upon a Hill, hath its particular Beauties: In it you see Palaces, Churches, Fortifications, Gardens, Armories, and Streets: There's always a good

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good Garrison, with a Governour. This Fortrefs commands the City, and from thence they may thunder upon it in case it proves rebellious. The Palace where the King lives is more considerable, if not for its Strength, yet for the Uniformity of its Buildings: Every Thing there is great and magnificent; the Prospect it has to the Sea hath made them take so much Care to beautify it. She discoursed to me afterwards of the publick Places, which are adorn'd with Vaults and Arches, and of the great Houses round about the *Dominicans* Convent, where the Inquisition is, before the Gate of which, there is a Fountain, with a great many Statues of white Marble, which throw the Water every Way. She added, that the Fair of *Reucio* is kept on the *Tuesday* of every Week, in a Place which might be taken for an Amphitheatre, because 'tis environ'd with little Hills, upon which are built several fair Palaces. There's another Place on the Side of the *Tagus*, where the Market is kept; and there one may meet with every Thing that can be desir'd, of the best in the Kind, either in Fowl, Fish, Fruits, Herbs, or Pulse. The Custom-House stands a little higher up, where there are infinite Riches and Rarities; and some Fortifications are lately made

to

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to preserve them. The Metropolitan Church is not eminent for any Thing but its Antiquity: It is dedicated to *St. Vincent*. It is pretended, that after he had suffer'd Martyrdom, they refused him Burial, and that the Ravens watch'd over his Body, 'till some pious Persons came and took it up, and carry'd it to *Valencia* in *Spain* to have it worshipp'd: And for this Reason there are Ravens kept in the Church; and there is a Box for them, into which are put the Alms to buy them Food.

Altho' *Lisbon*, continu'd she, is a very pleasant Place to live in, yet we dwelt at *Alcantara*. This Village is not above a quarter of a League from the City: There is in it a Royal House, not so fine for its Buildings, as for its Situation; the River supplies the Place of a Canal: There one sees admirable Gardens, all fill'd with Grots and Cataracts, or great Falls of Water, as well as Spouts of Water. *Belem* is not far from hence; it is the Place design'd for the Sepulture of the Kings of *Portugal*, and in the Church of the *Hieronomites*: It is all cover'd over with white Marble; the Pillars and Statues are of the same; the Tombs are in even Rows, in three different Chappels, amongst which there are some well wrought. *Belem, Ferriera,*

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riera, Sacavin, and some other Places about the City, are remarkable for the vast Quantities of Oranges and Lemons growing there : The Air you smell there is all perfum'd ; you can hardly sit under the Trees, but you are cover'd with their Flowers ; one sees running amongst them a thousand little Rivulets ; and it may be affirm'd, that there is nothing more sweet in the Night, than the Murmurs and Harmony which are there frequently heard. At *Belem* there are great Magazines of Oranges, both sweet and sour Lemons, Pomegranates and Citrons. They load them on small Vessels, and so transport them into most Parts of *Europe*.

Likewise she told me of the Knights *del Habito de Christo* ; of the Habit of Christ, whose Multitude made them less considerable ; and also of the Counts of the Kingdom, which have the same Privileges as the Grandees of *Spain* ; they are possess'd of *Las Comarcas*, which are certain Lands belonging to the Crown, and divided into Counties of a considerable Value. She told me, that when the King intended to go abroad, the People had notice of it by a Trumpet, which sounds very early in the Morning, in the Place thro' which his Majesty is to pass : For the Queen, 'tis a Flute and Drum : For the Infanta, a Haut-boy.

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boy. When they all go abroad together, the Trumpet, the Drum, the Flute, and the Hautboy, march in a Company; and by this Means, if any one cannot get into the Palace to present a Petition, he needed only wait for the King's coming by. Eight Leagues from *Coimbria*, there's a Fountain, in a Place call'd *Cedima*, which draws, in, and swallows down every Thing which touches its Water. Experiments are often made from great Branches of Trees, and sometimes of Horses, which they cause to be brought there, from whence they cannot get back but with great Difficulty.

But that which causes the greatest Wonder, added she, is the Lake of the Mountain of *Strella*, where there are often found the Wrecks of Ships, broken Masts, Anchors, and Sails; and yet the Sea is above twelve Leagues off; and this is upon the Top of a very high Hill too. It cannot be imagin'd by what Means all these Things should come there. Whilst I was hearing with great Delight *Donna Theresa* relate these Things, her Husband, and the rest of the Company, came and interrupted us. *Don Augustin* was a Man of Sense, and notwithstanding his Age, was very pleasant. If my Curiosity is not indiscreet, Pray, Madam, says he, tell me what Subject this Child has entertain'd you with? *Mi Tio*, reply'd she,

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she, (that is, *My Uncle*) you may easily believe it was *Portugal*. Oh! I thought as much, cry'd he; there it is she always chuses her Field of Action. Dear God! says she, every body has some Place they love; and when once you are got to your *Mexico*, one cannot draw you from thence. You have been in the *Indies*, resum'd I; and Donna *Theresa* hath shew'd me a Serpent which she says you have killed there. It is true, Madam, continu'd he; and if it were not Time for you to dine, it would not perhaps be unpleasant to you to hear of what I have seen there. But, says he, I should go to *Madrid*; and if you please, I'll bring you to Donna *Theresa*. It is there indeed, where I should lay the Scene of Discourse, and where I could tell you of Things which, I believe, you would not be unwilling to know. I assur'd him, that he would do me a particular Favour, to give me so signal a Mark of his Kindness, and that I should be overjoy'd to see the fair Donna *Theresa*, and to hear her talk of the *Indies*; she that discoursed so admirably of every Thing. He took me by the Hand; and led me down into a Hall pav'd with Marble, which was hung with Pictures instead of Tapestry, and set round with Cushions. Cloth was laid there upon a Table for the Men; but upon a Carpet
on

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on the Floor, it was laid for Donna *Theresa*, myself, and my Daughter.

I was surpris'd at this Fashion, not having been us'd to dine so: However, I took no notice of it, and I had a Mind to try it; but I was never more uneasy; my Legs ak'd most horribly; one while I lean'd upon my Elbow, and then upon my Hand: In a Word, I could not dine; and yet the good Lady was not sensible of it: For she thought the Women in *France* were us'd to eat upon a Floor, as they did in *Spain*. But Don *Fernando de Toledo*, who observ'd me uneasy, rose from Table, with Don *Frederick de Cardonne*; and both of them told me, that absolutely I should sit with them. I was willing enough, provided Donna *Theresa* would do so too, but she durst not, because there were Men, upon whom she did not so much as lift up her Eyes but by Stealth. Don *Augustin* bid her come, without Ceremony, and told her, that they must let me know that they were glad to see me at their House. But that which was very pleasant, was, when this Lady was set upon a Chair, she was less at ease than I was when I sat upon the Carpet: She protested with a pretty Sort of Freedom, that she never before sat in a Chair, and that she had never one thought on't. Thus we dined
very

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very merrily ; and there was nothing which could be added to the obliging Manner of my Reception in this House. I gave to Donna *Theresa* some Ribbands, Pins, and a Fan. She was mightily pleased, and gave me as many Thanks, as if the Present had been of value. Here, Thanks were not common ; one could not observe in them any Thing that was low or covetous. And to speak Truth, they have abundance of Wit and Sense in this Country ; it appears even in the smallest Trifles.

I had not been gone an Hour from this House, when I saw coming towards us two Coaches drawn by six Mules apiece, which gallopp'd a great Pace, and faster than the best Horses could do. I could hardly have believ'd that Mules could run so fast. But that which I wondered most at, was the Manner of their being harnessed : These two Coaches and their Furniture, took up almost a quarter of a League of Room : There was one with six Glasses indifferent large, and made like ours, except that the upper Part is very low, and so inconvenient : Within, it had a Cornish of Wood gilt, but so large, that it look'd like one for a Chamber. The Coach was gilt on the Outside, which is only allow'd to Embassadors and Strangers : The Curtains were of Damask and Cloth

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Cloth sewed together: The Coach-Man rode upon one of the foremost Mules; they do not sit on the Coach-Box, altho' there is one: And upon my asking the Reason of it, Don *Frederick de Cardonne* told me, that he had been assur'd, that this Custom had been ever since the Coach-Man of the Lord Duke *de Olivarez* drove his Master; who overhearing something of great Importance which the Duke told to one of his Friends, revealed it. The Matter having made a great Noise at Court, (for it seems the Duke accused his Friend of some Indiscretion, which nevertheless he was innocent of) ever since they have been so cautious as to make the Coachman ride upon the first Mule. Their Traces are Silk and Hempen Cords, so excessive long, that from one Mule to another, there's above three Ells Distance; and I cannot understand, but every Thing should break at the Rate they run. 'Tis true, that tho' they run very fast in the Country, yet they go very softly in the City, and 'tis a tiresome Thing to go so slowly, as if they told their Steps: And tho' at *Madrid* they have but four Mules, yet they have a Postilion. My Relation was in the first of these Coaches, with three *Spanish* Ladies. The Gentlemen and the Pages were in the other, which was not made after

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after the same Manner. It had Boots, as formerly our Coaches had : They are to let down, and the Leather is open at bottom ; so that when the Women come out (if they have no mind their Feet should be seen) the Boot is let down to the Ground to hide their Shoes. It had Glasses twice as big as my Hand, made fast to each End of the Coach, for the Conveniency of calling to the Footmen. Nothing more resembles our Garret Windows than these do. The Top of the Coach is cover'd with grey Parragon, and the Curtains are of the same, large and long, hang without, and draw round, and are fasten'd with Buttons and Loops. This looks very ill ; and you are inclos'd within, as if you were in a Box.

My Relation was dress'd half *French*, and half *Spanish* : She seem'd overjoy'd to see me ; I was no less to see her. As to her Person, I found her not at all chang'd ; but I could not forbear laughing at her Way of speaking. She now understands very little *French*, altho' she continually speaks and loves it so much, that 'tis impossible for her to learn any other Language. But she now mixes *Italian*, *English*, and *Spanish*, with her own natural Language ; and this makes such a Jargon, as is very strange to one who knew her as I did, to have
the

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the *French* Language in its Purity, and able to read Lectures of it to the Learned. She cannot endure to be told, that she has forgot it; and, indeed, she does not believe it, having never left off speaking it, either with some of her own Women, or with Embassadors and Strangers, who generally understood it. Nevertheless, she speaks very ill. And if one is not at the Fountain-Head, it is difficult long to speak a Language well which is every Day changing and continually making new Progresses.

I found the Ladies which were with her extreme pretty: I do assure you, that there are in this Country some very handsome and amiable. We embraced each other often, and went back to *Madrid*. Before we came there, we passed over a sandy Plain of about four Leagues; but so uneven, that every Moment we fell into Holes Big enough to bury the Coach, and which hinder'd it from going very fast. This uneven Way lasted till we came to a little Village call'd *Mandes*, which is but half a League from *Madrid*. All the Country here is dry and very open; you can scarcely see a Tree on any Side you look. The City is situated in the Middle of *Spain*, which is *New Castile*: It is above an Age since the Kings of *Spain* have chosen

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fen to keep their Court in it, because of the Purity of the Air, and the Goodness of the Water ; which really is so good, and so light, that the Cardinal *Infanta* would drink no other when he was in *Flanders* ; and he caused it to be brought by Sea in Earthen Jars well stopp'd. The *Spaniards* pretend that the Founder of *Madrid* was a Prince named *Ogno Bianor*, Son of *Tiberino* King of the *Latins*, and of *Manto*, who was a Queen more famous for the Science of Astrology, which she understood to a wonderful Degree, than for her Birth. 'Tis thought, that *Madrid* must be the Heart of *Europe*, because the little Village of *Pinto*, which is not above three Leagues from it, is called in *Latin*, *Punctum* ; and that it is reckon'd to be in the Center of *Europe*.

The first Thing I observed, was, that the City is not inclosed either with a Wall or Ditch. The Gates, as one may say, are only made fast by a Latch ; those which I have already seen, are all broken. There is not seen any Place of Defence, neither Castle, nor, in a Word, any Thing which might not be forced with throwing of Oranges and Lemons ; but yet, were it necessary to fortify this City, the Mountains which are round it would be of some Use for its Defence. I have passed thro'

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thro' some Places of them, which are so narrow, that one might shut them up with a good big Stone, and with a hundred Men, oppose the Passage of a whole Army. The Streets are long and straight, and of a good Largeness; but there's no Place worse pav'd: Let one go as softly as possible, yet one is almost jumbled and shaken to Pieces. There are more Ditches and dirty Places than in any City in the World; the Horses go up to their Bellies, and the Coaches up to the Middle; so that it dashes all upon you, and you are spoil'd, unless you either pull up the Glasses, or draw the Curtains, which I have spoken of. Very often the Water comes into the Coaches at the Bottom of the Boots, which are open.

The Houses there have rarely any great Gates to them; those which have, are without Courts. The Doors, indeed, are pretty large; and for the Houses, they are very graceful, spacious, and convenient, tho' they are only built of Earth and Brick. I think they are altogether as dear as at *Paris*. The first Story which they raise belongs to the King, and he can either let or sell it, unless the Owner of the House buys it off, which is almost constantly done; and this is a considerable Revenue to the King.

There

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There are commonly in every House ten or twelve Rooms on a Floor ; in some twenty, and more. They have their Summer and their Winter Apartments, and very often one for Autumn, and another for Spring-Time : So that having very great Families, they are forced to lodge them in some neighbouring Houses which they hire on purpose for them.

You must not wonder, dear Cousin, that they have so many Domesticks ; there are two Reasons for it : The first is, That both for Food and Wages, the *Spaniards* give but two Rials a Day, which is not above Six-pence of our Money. I say, the *Spaniards* do this ; for Strangers pay after the Rate of four Rials, which is about Twelve-pence of our Money. Neither do the *Spaniards* give to their Gentlemen above fifteen Crowns a Month, with which they must wear Velvet in Winter, and Taffaty in Summer ; but then they live only upon Onions, Pease, and such mean Stuff ; and this makes the Pages and Footmen as greedy as Dogs. But I should speak of the other Domesticks, as well as the Pages, for in this Matter they are all alike let them have what Wages they will : They are kept so very hungry, that in carrying the Dishes to the Table, they eat half the Victuals that is in them :

They

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They throw it into their Mouths so burning hot, that you shall observe their Teeth all rotten with the Practice. I advised my Kinswoman to get a little Silver Stew-Pan made, and fasten'd with a Padlock, like one I saw at the Archbishop of *Burgos's*; and she did so: And now, after the Cook hath fill'd it, he looks thro' a little Grate, to see whether the Soup does well: And thus the Pages get nothing of it but the Steam. Before this Invention, it happen'd a hundred Times, that when we thought to have taken up some Broth, we found neither that, nor any Flesh: For you must know, that if the *Spaniards* are temperate, 'tis when the Expence is their own; they are not so, when they eat at another's Cost. I have seen Persons of the highest Quality eat with us like so many Wolves, they were so hungry: They were sensible enough of it themselves, and pray'd us not to wonder at it; for they found the Ragoufts, after the *French* Way, so excellent, that they could not forbear.

There are Cooks Shops almost at every Corner of a Street: These have great Kettles set upon Trivets: There Folks may have such ordinary Things as Beans, Garlick, Leeks, or a little Broth, in which they steep their Bread. The Gen-

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tlemen and Waiting-women go thither as other People; for, at home, they only dress Victuals for the Master and Mistress, and their Children. They are strangely temperate in Wine; the Women never drink any, and the Men so little, that a quarter of a Pint will serve one a whole Day. You cannot affront a Man worse, than to call him a Drunkard. Here are indeed a great many Things to make up the first Reason why they keep so many Servants: Now follows the second.

When a great Man dies, if he had a hundred Servants, his Son keeps all he found in the House, without putting one away: When the Mother happens to die, either her own Daughter, or her Daughter-in-law, takes into her Service all the Women-Servants; and this Custom holds to the fourth Generation, for they are never turn'd away. They are put, as I have told you, into neighbouring Houses, and have the Ration or Allowances. They come often to their Master and Mistress's House, but 'tis rather to shew they are not dead, than to do any Service. I was to see the Dutches of *Offuna*, who is a very great Lady; and I was amazed to see so many Chamber-Maids and Women, for every Room was full of them. I ask'd her how many she had? She told me, she

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she had now only 300, but that very lately she had 500 more. If particular Persons have this Custom of keeping so many Servants, the King must needs keep abundance more, which without doubt is very chargeable to him, and must hurt his Affairs. I have been told, that in *Madrid* only, if the Pensions which he gives are reckon'd, he gives Ration or Allowances to above 10000 Persons.

As to the King's House, the Provision for it is daily brought in, and it is regulated according to the Quality of the Persons. There is distributed both tame and wild Fowl, Fish, Chocolate, Fruit, Ice, Charcoal, Wax-Candles, Oil, Bread; and, in a Word, every Thing that is necessary for Life.

Embassadors have their certain Expences; and so have some *Grandeos* of *Spain*. There are Persons appointed to sell at their Houses whatever I have just now nam'd, and that, without paying any Custom or Excise: And this saves them a great deal of Money, for the Duties upon all Sorts of Goods and Wares are excessive high.

None but Embassadors and Strangers are allow'd to have a great many Footmen and Pages to follow them: For by the *Pragmatic* (by which Name they call all their

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Edicts of Reformation) they are forbidden to have any more than two Footmen to follow. It is somewhat strange, that they who keep four or five hundred Persons, may not be allow'd above three to accompany them. This Third, you must know, is a Groom ; who goes on foot, and keeps near the Horses, to hinder them from putting and entangling their Legs in their long Traces ; and he does not wear a Sword as the Footmen do. And I must needs say, that if Age is a recommendable Quality, these three Men have that in a good Degree. I have seen Footmen of fifty Years of Age, and never under thirty. They are very unpleasant to look at, being very tawny, and of a clownish Aspect. They cut their Hair close on the Top of their Head, only let a Round be a little long, but very greasy, and seldom comb'd. The Hair they cut on the Top of their Heads, is done in the Shape of a Wild Boar's Head. They wear long Swords, with Shoulder-Belts and Cloaks. They are all cloathed either in Blue or Green, and often their green Cloth Cloaks are lin'd with blue Velvet cut in Flowers : Their Sleeves are either of Velvet, Sattin, or Damask. One would think that these should be handsome Liveries ; but yet I assure you, nothing is uglier, and their ill Looks dis-
parage

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parage their Cloaths. They wear Bands, but without any Collar, which is ridiculous ; and upon their Cloaths, they have neither Galloons, nor tufted Buttons and Loops, nor any Sort of Lace or Trimming.

Their Gentlemen, and their Pages, always go in a Coach that follows ; these wear black Cloaths in all Seasons. In Winter they Wear Velvet, with Cloth Cloaks very long ; but when they mourn, they draw upon the Ground. Altho' they are Pages, they wear no Swords ; only most of them have a little Ponyard hid under their Cloaths. In Summer they wear either Damask, or Taffaty, with Cloaks of a black Stuff, very light.

It is only the great Lords, and the *Titulado's*, or *Men of Title* ; which are permitted to have four Mules to their Coaches, with those long Traces in the City. If any Person, without the Distinction of some Character, let him be as rich as he will, should appear in the same Equipage, he would be affronted and abus'd in the open Street ; his Traces would be cut, and himself fin'd very high. Here, it is not enough to be rich, a Man must also be of some Quality. The King only can have six Mules to his own Coach, and to those of his Attendants ; which

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Coaches are not like others, and are distinguish'd by this, that they are cover'd with green Oil-Cloth round, as well as on the Top, just as the Stage-Coaches in *France*, except that they are not of Wickers: But the carv'd Work is very coarse, and ill done, and they having falling Boots, and all is very ugly; and one would wonder how so great a King can make use of them. But I have been told, that these fashion'd Coaches were in use in *Charles the Fifth's* Time; that his were just like them; and that it is in Imitation of so great an Emperor, that all the Kings which have reign'd since will have no other. Without doubt there must be some such great Reason; for, notwithstanding this, the King has as fine Coaches as any in the World, some made in *France*, and others in *Italy*, and other Parts. The great Persons have also very stately ones; but, after the King's Example, they do not use them four Times a Year. All Coaches are kept in large Courts, in which there are several Partitions enclos'd. There are, it may be, to the Number of two hundred in one Yard; and there are several of these Yards or Courts in divers Parts of this City. The Reason why they set them abroad, is, because they have no Room for them at home; their Houses being built,

as

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as I have already said, without Courts, or great Gates. Of late, they begin to alter their Fashion, and use Horses instead of Mules. And to be just, these Horses are extreme beautiful; there is nothing wanting in them; and it would be difficult for the best Painters to draw any in greater Perfection. But 'tis a Piece of Cruelty to make them draw such huge Coaches; which are almost as heavy as an House: Besides, the Streets are so very ill pav'd, that their Feet are quite spoil'd in two Years Time. They cost very dear, and are not big enough for their Coaches. But I have seen some draw their pretty little Calashes, which were all painted and gilt, like those which are made in *Holland*; and nothing look'd more pleasant; and by their swift Running, and handsome carrying of their Heads, you would take them for Stags. As soon as you are out of Town, you may put six Horses to your Coach. Their Harness is very neat, and they trim their Manes, which hang to the Ground, with Ribbands of divers Colours; and sometimes they dress up their Manes with a great many Puffs of Silver Gauze, which makes a very pretty Show. The Harnesses for their Mules are made of Leather, flat and broad, with which they cover them almost over.

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Two Days ago I went with my Kinswoman to walk without *St. Bernardine's-Gate* : 'Tis a Place they frequent in Winter. Don *Antonio* of *Toledo*, Son to the Duke of *Alva*, was there, with the Duke of *Uzeda*, and the Count of *Altamire*. He had an Harness for his Horses of an *Isabella* Colour ; which so pleased me, that I could not forbear speaking to him of it when his Coach came near ours. According to Custom, he told me, that he laid them all at my Feet. And at Night, when we got home, I was told, that his Gentleman desir'd to speak with me : He made me a Compliment, and told me, that his Master's six Horses were in my Stable. My Kinswoman fell a laughing, and made Answer for me, That I was so lately arriv'd at *Madrid*, that I did not yet understand that one must not praise any Thing which belong'd to so generous a *Cavallero* as Don *Antonio* ; but however, 'twas not the Fashion to receive Presents of so great a Value, and desired him to take them back again ; but this he would not do : We sent them back immediately : He return'd them ; and so did we. To be short, the whole Evening pass'd thus, in sending backwards and forwards ; and at last we were forced to write him a Letter, and give ourselves a great deal of Trouble to persuade him
not

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not take it ill that I would not accept them.

I am told, that after the King has once made use of a Horse, in Respect to him, no body afterwards will ride on him. It happen'd, that the Duke of *Medina de las Torres* had bought a Horse worth five and twenty thousand Crowns. He was the handsomest and the bravest which was ever seen. He caused his Picture to be taken; King *Philip the Fourth* saw it, and had a Mind to see the Horse: The Duke begg'd him to accept of him; but he refus'd him, and gave him this Reason: That as he should seldom ride on him, and that no body would make use of him after he had mounted him, so the Strength and Usefulness of the Horse would be lost.

It is usual here for good Families to put their younger Daughters to Ladies; by whom they are employ'd for the most part to embroider in Gold and Silver, or in Silk of various Colours, about their Shift-Necks or Hands: But if they are left to follow their own natural Inclination, they work very little, and talk much. They keep also both Male and Female Dwarfs, and very ugly ones: The Females particularly have very frightful Looks; their Heads are bigger than their Bodies;

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they always wear their Hair loose about their Ears, and hanging down to the Ground. At first Sight, one would wonder what these little Figures were, when they present themselves before one's Eyes.: They wear rich Cloaths; they are their Mistresses Confidants; and for this Reason they are deny'd nothing they have a mind to.

In every House, at a certain stated Hour, all the Women meet with the Mistress of the Family in the Chappel, there to repeat their *Rosary* aloud: They make use of no Book to say their Prayers by; indeed it is very seldom they have any. The Count of *Charny*, who is a *Frenchman*, very handsome, and of great Worth, and is the King of *Spain's* General of Horse in *Catalonia*, told me, that the other Day, being at Mass, as he was saying his Prayers by his Book, an old *Spanish* Woman came and snatch'd it from him, and with great Indignation threw it on the Ground, saying to him, *Let this alone, and make use of your Beads.* It is a strange Thing to consider how continually fond they are of their Beads; every Woman there has a Pair fasten'd to her Girdle, and so long, that they almost touch the Ground. They are perpetually, without ceasing, using them; in the Street, as they play at *Ombre*,

as

as they discourse ; nay, when they are making Love, when they are telling Lies, or speaking evil of their Neighbours. They are continually muttering over their Beads, let them be in never so much Company ; nothing of this hinders them still to keep on their Pace. I leave you to judge what Devotion there can be in this : But Custom has a great Power in this Country.

Till of late, Women wore Fardingals of a prodigious Bigness : This Fashion was very troublesome to themselves as well as others : There were hardly any Doors wide enough for them to go thro'. But they have left them off now, and only wear them when they go to appear in the Queen's or the King's Presence : Commonly in the City, they wear a kind of Vestment, which, to speak properly, is a young or little Fardingal. They are made of thick Copper Wire, in a round Form ; about the Girdle there are Ribbands fasten'd to them, with which they tie another Round of the same Form, which falls down a little lower, and which is wider ; and of these, they have five or six Rounds, which reach down to the Ground, and bear out their Petticoats and other Garments. They wear a vast Number of this Device ; and one would hardly believe that so little
Creatures

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Creatures as the *Spanish* Women are, could bear such a Load. Their upper Garment is always of a coarse black Taffaty, or of a grey plain Stuff made of Goats-Hair, with a Trafs or Fardle coming down a little above the Knees, and round the upper Garments. And if you ask them to what End this serves, they will answer you, that with this, they can make it longer as it wears out. The Queen-Mother, as well as others, uses this to all her Garments. Even the *Carmelites* wear them in *France* as well as in *Spain*. But as to Women, it is rather a Fashion which they follow, than any Frugality; for they are neither covetous, nor good Housewives; and of these Things they have two or three new ones a Week. These upper Garments are so long before and on the Sides, that they draw a great deal upon the Ground, but behind they do not draw at all. Tho' they wear them down so low, yet they will tread upon them, that their Feet may not be seen, which are the Parts they most industriously hide. I have heard say, That after a Lady has obliged her Gallant by all possible Civilities and Compliance, to confirm to him her Kindness, she will shew him her Foot; and this, here, they call the highest Favour: One must needs own, that in its Kind, there is nothing prettier.

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prettier. As I have already told you, their Feet are so small, that their Shoes look like those of our Babies. They are made of black *Spanish* Leather, cut upon colour'd Taffaty, without Heels, and as strait as a Glove. When they go, you would think they flew: We should not in an hundred Years learn their Way of walking; they keep their Elbows close to their Sides, and go without raising their Feet, just as one slides. But to return to their Habit: Under this plain upper Garment, they have a dozen more, one finer than another, of rich Stuffs, and trimm'd with Galloons and Lace of Gold and Silver, to the Girdle. Tho' I have told you a dozen, pray don't think that I exceed the Truth: During the excessive Heats of the Summer, they only wear seven or eight, of which some are of Velvet, and others of thick Sattin. They wear at all Times a white Garment under all the rest, which they call *Sabengua*; it is made either of the fine *English* Lace, or of Muslin embroider'd with Gold, and so wide, that they are four Ells in Compass. I have seen of these, worth five or six hundred Crowns. At home, they wear neither the little Fardingals nor Pattins; these last are a sort of little Sandals, made of Brocade or Velvet, set upon Plates of Gold, which raise them

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them half a Foot ; and when they have these, they walk very ill, and are apt to fall. They use but very little Whale-Bone in their Stays, the Midst of which are a third Part of an Ell. One can hardly see in other Countries Women so slender. They shape their Bodies before, pretty high ; but behind, you may see them to the Middle of the Back, they are so naked ; and yet this is no charming Sight, for they are all dreadful lean, tho' they would be very sorry to be fat. And this is a great Error among them. Besides, they are very swarthy ; so that this brown Skin which is glew'd to their Backs, must necessarily be displeasing to those who are not used to it. They put Red upon their Shoulders, which are all naked, as well as on their Cheeks. Neither do they want there for white, which is very good, but there are few which know how to use it ; at first Sight you can discern it. I have seen some of a very clear Complexion that was natural. Most of them have very fine and exact Features ; in their Looks and all their Actions you may see a little Affectation of being courted, which their Humour does not dissemble. It's reckon'd beautiful among them to have no Breasts, and they take care very early to hinder them from growing big. As soon as they
begin

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begin to appear, they bind thin Pieces of Lead upon them, as close as one would swaddle a Child. And indeed, their Breasts are as flat and as even as a Sheet of Paper, except the Holes and Hollowness which their Leanness causes; and those are pretty many. Their Hands have no Defect; they are little, white, and well-shap'd. Their large Sleeves which they fasten at the Bottom of their Wrists still contribute to make them appear less. These Sleeves are made of Taffaty of all Colours, like those of the *Egyptians*, with Ruffles of broad Lace. Their Stays are commonly of Gold and Silver Stuffs, mix'd with lively Colours; the Sleeves of them are very strait, and their Silk Sleeves appear instead of their Shifts. Nevertheless, People of Quality wear very fine Linen; but all others wear little or none. It is scarce and dear: Besides, the *Spaniards* have that foolish Vanity to desire it very fine, insomuch that they had rather have but one fine Shift, than half a dozen a little coarse; and either lie in Bed till 'tis wash'd, or else dress themselves without any, which they frequently enough do. They use this fine Linen after an ill Manner when they wash it; for the Women lay it on rough Stones, and so beat it hard with a Stick; by which Means, there shall be an hundred Holes
in

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in it immediately. There is no Difference between the best and the worst Laundress; all these Creatures are very awkward.

But to return to the Women's Cloaths, which I have often left, that I might give an Account of several Things which occurred to me. I must tell you, that they wear about their Necks Bone-lace, embroidered over either with red or green Silk, or Gold or Silver. They wear Girdles all of Medals and Reliques. There are divers Churches which have not so many. They wear also the Cord of some Order, either of *St. Francis*, the *Carmelites*, or some other. It is a small Cord, made either of black, white, or brown Wooll, and is worn on the Outside of their Stays, and hangs down before to the Edge of their Petticoats: They are full of Knots, and commonly upon every Knot there is a Diamond-Stone fasten'd. They make Vows to some Saint or other to wear their Cords; but if the Reason of these Vows was inquir'd into, it would not be found very good.

They have great Store of Jewels, the finest that can be seen. Neither is it enough to have one Set of Jewels, as our Ladies in *France* have, but these must have eight or ten; some of Diamonds, others
of

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of Rubies, Emeralds, Pearls, Turcois-stones; and in short, of all Sorts: But the Workmen set them very ill; for the greatest Part of the Diamond is hid, very little of it is seen. I ask'd the Reason of it; and they told me, that to them, the Gold look'd as well as the Stones. But I am of opinion, that their Lapidaries do not understand how to set them better. I must except *Verbec*, who can do them well if he will take the Pains.

The Ladies wear at top of their Stays a broad Knot of Diamonds, from whence there hangs a Chain of Pearl, or ten or twelve Knots of Diamonds, which they fasten at the other End to their Sides. They never wear any Necklace; but they wear Braclets, Rings, and Pendants; which last are longer than one's Hand, and so heavy, that I have wonder'd how they could carry them without tearing out the Hole of their Ears. To which they add whatever they think pretty. I have seen some have good large Watches hanging there, others Padlocks of precious Stones, and even your fine wrought *English* Keys, and little Bells. They also carry upon their Sleeves, their Shoulders, and all about their Bodies, *Agnus Dei's*, and little Images. They have their Heads stuck full of Bodkins; some made of Diamonds.

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monds in the Shape of a Fly ; and others like Butterflies, whose Colours are distinguish'd by various Stones. They dress their Heads after several Fashions, but still they must be naked ; they part their Hair on the Sides of their Heads, and lay it cross on their Foreheads ; it shines so, that without lying, they may see themselves in it. Formerly they wore a Tress or Lock of Hair, the worst made that one should see ; and this fell all spread upon their Shoulders, lest their own Hair should mix with it ; which, indeed, is very fine. They have usually five embroider'd Rolls, to which they fasten Knots of Ribbands, or else Pearls, and these they tie all together to their Girdles ; and in Summer, when they are at home, they wrap them up in a Piece of colour'd Taffaty, trimm'd with Thread-Bonelace. They never wear any Sort of Coif, either Night or Day. I have seen some who had their Heads dress'd up with Feathers like little Children : These Feathers are very curious, and spotted with different Colours, which made them much more beautiful. I cannot imagine why they do not make such in *France*.

The young Women, or New-married, have very rich Cloaths ; and their upper Garments are colour'd and embroider'd with.

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with Gold. I was to see the Princess of *Monteleon*: She's a little Body, not above thirteen Years old, and she is lately marry'd to her Cousin-German, nam'd Don *Nicholas Pignatelli*. Her Mother is Daughter of the Dutchess of *Terra Nova*, nominated to be *Cambrara Major*, or First Maid of Honour to the new Queen. These, that is to say, the Dutchess of *Terra Nova*, *D'Hijar*, and *Monteleon*, with the young Princess of the same Name, and her little Sisters, dwell all together. The Dutchess of *Terra Nova* may be about threescore Years old: My Kinswoman is one of her intimate Friends, and she receiv'd us with such Civility and Kindness, as is not usual with her. For it may be, there is not in the World a more haughty Spirit, which her very Looks declare. Her Voice is harsh; she speaks little; and would be thought of a kind and good Nature; but if what is said be true, she really is not so. One shall hardly meet with a greater Share of Wit, and a more piercing Judgment, than she has. She discoursed to us much of the Place she was going to take upon her in the Queen's House. Says she, I'll neglect nothing to make myself acceptable to her; I'll endeavour to discover every Thing that may please her. I am sensible, that a young Princess, born
in

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in *France*, must be allow'd a greater Liberty than an Infanta of *Spain*, born at *Madrid*: So that by me, she shall not be able to find any Difference betwixt this and her own Country. She presented me with a Pair of Beads of *Paolo d'Aguila*, which is a curious Sort of Wood that comes from the *Indies*. Really they are so long, that when I hold them in my Hands, they reach to the Ground. They are trimm'd with two Bunches of small green Taffaty-Ribband; each Bunch has about three hundred Ells in it. She gave me also some *Pucato's* of *Portugal*, which are Pots and Dishes made of that medicinal Earth, and are adorn'd with Filligreen Work: And she presented me likewise with several other pretty Toys.

One can hardly see any Thing that looks more splendid than this House of theirs: They use the upper Apartments; which are hung with Tapestry all done with rais'd Work of Gold. In one great Chamber, which is longer than 'tis broad, you may see several Glass Doors which go into Closets or little Cells; the first of which is the Dutchess of *Terra Nova's*, hung with Grey, and a Bed of the same, and all other Things very plain. On one Side lodges her Daughter the Dutchess of *Monteleon*; who is a Widow, and has her Room furnish'd

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furnish'd like her Mother's. Afterwards you come to the Princess of *Monteleon's* Chamber, which is not larger than the others; but her Bed is of Gold and green Damask, lin'd with Silver Brocade, and trimm'd with *Point de Spain*: The Sheets were laced about with an *English* Lace half an Ell deep. Over-against it were the Chambers of *Monteleon* and *Hijar's* Children; which were furnish'd with white Damask. Next to these is the little Chamber of the Dutchess *Hijar*, furnish'd with Crimson-colour'd Velvet upon a Gold Ground: Their Rooms were no otherwise divided, than by Partitions of a certain sweet Wood; and they told me, that six of their Women lay in their Chambers, upon Beds brought thither at Night.

The Ladies were in a great Gallery, spread with a very rich Foot-Cloth: There were set round it Crimson-colour'd Velvet Cushions embroider'd with Gold, and they are longer than they are broad. There were also several great Cabinets inlaid, and adorned with precious Stones; but they are not made in *Spain*: And between them were Tables of Silver, and admirable Looking-glasses, both for their Largeness and rich Frames, the worst of which were of Silver. But that which I thought finest, was their
Escaparates,

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Escaparates, which is a certain Sort of close Cabinet with one great Glass, and filled with all the Rareties which one can imagine; whether it be in Amber, Porcelane, Chrystal, Bezoar-Stone, Branches of Coral, Mother of Pearl, Filligreen in Gold, and a thousand other Things of Value. There I saw a Fish, and upon its Head there was a little Tree: It was neither of Wood, nor of Moss; it grew on the Top of the Fish's Scull, which is very small. This seem'd to me a great Curiosity.

We were above threescore Women in this Gallery, and not so much as one Man among us: They all sat down upon the Floor cross-legg'd. This was an old Custom, which they have deriv'd from the *Moors*. There was only one great Elbow-Chair of *Spanish* Leather stich'd with Silk, and very ugly. I ask'd for whom it was design'd. They told me it was for the Prince of *Monteleon*, who came not in till all the Ladies were retir'd. I could not long sit after this Fashion, and therefore I got some Cushions under me, five or six of which were fasten'd together by a Silver Brace full of Olive-Stones, that it might not break thro'. When any Lady comes to visit, the He or She-Dwarf comes to give notice, by kneeling down upon

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upon one Knee : Upon which all the Company rises, and the young Princess walks before, as far as the Door, to receive her who comes to see her after her Marriage. In saluting each other, they do not kiss : Perhaps, that is because they will not rub off the Colour from one another's Faces ; but they shake Hands with their Gloves off, and in Discourse they say, *Thou*, and *Thee* ; and without calling one another, either *Madam*, or *Lady*, or *Highbness*, or, *Excellency*, they only say, *Donna Maria*, *Donna Clara*, or *Donna Theresa*. I was willing to know the Reason of this familiar Way, and I learn'd, it was to avoid all Occasion of Offence among them ; and that as there were different Ways of speaking, to distinguish the great Difference of Quality and Degree, and it was not easy to observe all the Rules about them, without sometimes giving Distaste ; to prevent which, they have chosen to speak to each other without any Ceremony at all. I must also add, that the Women here do not inter-mix ; and so these are always Persons of Quality together. The Wives of the long Robe never so much as go to visit the Court Ladies ; and a Man of Birth never marries with a Woman of Quality. Here one never sees those who are not Gentlemen mix with the Nobility, as in
France ;

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France ; so that there can be little Danger, as long as they associate together. If there come in an hundred Ladies one after another, every one rises up as often ; and they go, as in Procession, as far as the Antichamber to receive them. I was so tir'd that Day, that I was in a very ill Humour.

They were all very well dress'd ; and as I have already told you, they have very rich Cloaths, and their Jewels are extreme fine. There were two Tables for the Game of *Ombre*, at which they play'd very high, and without any Noise. I could not understand their Cards ; they are as thin as Paper, and painted after a quite different Manner from ours. One of those Cards looks as if one held a Letter. When they have a good Game in Hand, it were easy for a cheating Gamester to discover several of their Cards, if not the whole Game.

While they play'd, they discoursed of News of the Court and City. Their Conversation is free and pleasant ; and it must needs be confess'd, that they have a certain Quickness of Wit which we cannot come up to. They are very kind and friendly. : They love to praise, and do it after a genteel Way, very ingeniously, and with great Judgment. I am amaz'd to find such Strength of Memory join'd
with

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with so great a Degree of Wit and Understanding. They are compassionate even almost to a Fault. They read little, and write not much ; but yet, by that little which they do read, they improve much ; and that little they write, is both exact and concise.

Their Features are very regular and delicate ; but their excessive Leanness offends one that is not used to it. They are of a brown Complexion, and their Faces very smooth. The Small-Pox must needs be less hurtful here, than in other Countries ; for I have seldom seen any mark'd with them.

Their Hair is as black as Jett, and very shining, notwithstanding there is Cause to think, that they comb long with one and the same Comb ; for t'other Day I saw at the Marchioness of *Alconizsa's* (who is Sister to the Constable of *Castile*, and whose first Husband was the Count and Duke of *Olivarez*) her Toilet spread ; and altho' she is one of the neatest and richest Ladies, and the Toilet was laid upon a little Silver Table, yet it was only furnish'd with a little Bit of Callico, a Looking-Glass no bigger than one's Hand, two Combs, and a little Box, and in a small China Cup some White of an Egg beat together with Sugar-Candy. I ask'd one

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of her Women what she did with this? She told me, this was to take the Dirt off her Face, and to make it shine. I have seen some, whose Faces were so bright, that you would wonder. One would think that they were varnish'd over; and the Skin is so pull'd and rubb'd, that I am confident it does a great deal of Hurt. Most of the Women make themselves Eye-Brows, and they have only, as it were, a little Thread of Hair, which in my Mind looks very ugly: But that which is yet worse, is, they comb the Middle of their Foreheads so much, till they make their Eye-Brows meet; and this with them is extreme beautiful.

But yet there are a great many, whose Fancies do not lie this Way. I have seen some *Spanish* Women more exact to the Rules of Beauty, than our *French* Women, notwithstanding their Way of dressing cross-wise, and the little Advantage which they give to their Faces. One may say, that they are like Things made out of Rule; for they have neither Hair, nor Cornet, nor any Ribband to set them off; and yet, what Country can shew such Eyes as theirs? They are so very sprightly, and discover so much Wit, and by them, talk to one in a Language so kind and intelligible, that if they had no other Charms,

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Charms, these alone would make them pass for handsome Women, and unavoidably steal away one's Affections. Their Teeth are very even, and would be white enough, if they took a little Care of them, but they neglect them ; and besides, their frequent Use of Sugar and Chocolate does them much Hurt. They have all a bad Custom here, the Women as well as the Men, which is to pick their Teeth, let them be in what Company they will. This they reckon as a Diversion, and do it with grave Looks. They do not so much as know what belongs to have them cleansed by an Artist ; there is no such Trade there ; and when they need them to be drawn out, they get the Surgeons to do it if they can.

At my first coming in to visit the Princess of *Monteleon*, I was surprized to see so many young Ladies with great Spectacles on their Noses, and fasten'd to their Ears ; but that which yet seem'd strangest to me, was, that they made no Use of them where it was necessary ; they only discoursed while they had them on. I was disturb'd at it, and asked the Marchioness *de la Rosa* (with whom I have contracted a dear Friendship) the Reason of it. She's a pretty Sort of Woman, and understands how to live. She has a true Wit, and is a *Nea-*

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politan. She fell a laughing at my Question, and told me, that it was done to make them look grave ; that they did not wear them for any Need, but to draw Respect. Do you see that Lady, says she to me ? meaning one that was near us ; I don't believe, that since she was ten Years old she ever left them off but when she went to Bed. In short, they both eat with them on, and in the Streets and Assemblies you can never fail of meeting with abundance of Men and Women with their Spectacles. Upon this Occasion, I must needs tell you, continu'd she, that some Time ago, the *Jacobite* Friars had a Suit of Law of high Importance ; the Success of which they were too much concern'd for, to neglect any Means ; one of the young Fathers of the Convent had some Kindred of the greatest Quality, who, upon this Account, did solicit very hard on their Behalf. The Prior assur'd him, that if thro' his Credit and Interest, they should get the better of the Suit, he could ask nothing that should not be granted him for an Acknowledgment. At last they gain'd their Point, and the young Father, transported with Joy, immediately ran to tell the News, and at the same Time prepared himself to ask a Favour, which a long Time he had a mighty Desire to obtain. But the Prior, after ha-

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ving embraced him, with a grave Look and Tone, said to him, *Hermano ponga las Ojals*, that is to say, *Brother, put on your Spectacles*. The Honour of this Permission filled the young Monk with a strange Joy, he thought himself and his Care too highly recompensed, and had nothing else to ask. The Marquis of *Astorgas*, Vice-Roy of *Naples*, added she, had his Statue to the Middle, cut in Marble, upon which he was very careful to cause his best Spectacles to be put. It is so common a Thing to wear them, that I have heard there are different Spectacles, according to the different Qualities and Degrees of Men and Women. Proportionably, as a Man's Fortune rises, he increases in the Largeness of his Spectacle-Glasses, and wears them higher upon his Nose. The Grandees of *Spain* wear them as broad as one's Hand, which for Distinction, they call *Ocales*. They fasten them behind their Ears, and leave them off as seldom as they do their Collars. Heretofore they had the Glasses of them from *Venice*, till after the Enterprize of the Marquis of *Cueva*, which was called the *Triumvirate*, because they were three Persons who undertook to fire the Arsenal of *Venice* with Burning-Glasses; and by this Means to make the King of *Spain* Master of that City. The *Venetians*, to be revenged, cau-

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fed a vast Number of those *Ocales* to be made, and sent to their Embassador at *Madrid*. He presented of them to the whole Court ; and all that used them were almost blinded with them ; for they were made of Burning-Glass, and very artificially done, and set in Frames made of combustible Matter, which with the least Rays of the Sun, would put all in a Flame. It happen'd on a Council-Day, that in the Room where they sat, one of the Windows was left open, and the Sun shining perpendicularly upon their Spectacles, all on a sudden they perceived a dangerous Sort of Fire contriv'd against their Eye-Brows and Hair : One can hardly imagine what a Fright these venerable old Men were in. I could wish, said I to the Marchioness, that this Story was credible, for it is very pleasant. As I did not see it, reply'd she, smiling, so I cannot positively assure you that 'tis true ; but the Business of the *Jacobite* Friars, which I related to you, I had from the best Authority. I have since observ'd several Persons of Quality in their Coaches, sometimes alone, and sometimes in Company, with these great Spectacles hung upon their Noses, which, in my Mind, is a strange Sight.

This Princess gave us a Collation ; her Women, to the Number of Eighteen, brought

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brought every one of them a great Silver Bason full of dry Sweetmeats, wrapped up in Paper, for that Purpose cut and gilt : In one there was a Plumb, in another a Cherry, or an Apricock ; and so in all the rest accordingly. This to me seemed very neat ; for by this Way one might either eat or carry away, without soiling the Fingers or Pockets. There were some antient Ladies, who, after they had eat of these Sweetmeats till they were ready to burst, fill'd five or six Handkerchiefs full, and they bring them on Purpose, and altho' they are well observ'd, yet no Notice seems to be taken ; but they are suffer'd to take as much and as often as they will. They tie these Handkerchiefs with Strings quite round their little Fardingals. This is like the Hook used in a Pantry, upon which are hung all Sorts of Flesh and Fowl. Afterwards they present you with Chocolate, every one a China Cup full, upon a little Dish of Agate set in Gold, with Sugar in a Box of the same. There was Chocolate ordered with Ice, and some hot, and some made with Milk and Eggs : One drinks it with Bisket, or else with some thin Bread as hard as if it were toasted, which they make so on purpose. There are Women who will drink six Cups one after another ; and this they do very often, twice
or

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or thrice a Day. One should not wonder that they are so dry, since nothing is hotter than this Liquor ; and besides, they eat every Thing so very high-season'd with Pepper and Spice, that one would think it impossible they were not burnt up. There were several also who eat great Pieces of the Medecinal Earth. I have already told you, that they have a great Passion for this Earth, which frequently causes in them Obstructions ; their Stomachs and their Bellies will be swell'd with it, and become as hard as a Stone, and they themselves as yellow as Saffron. I had a Mind to taste this *Ragoust*, which is so much esteem'd beyond its Worth ; but I declare I had rather eat a Piece of a Stone.

If one had a Mind to oblige them, one must treat them with such kind of Things which they call *Barros* ; and very often their Confessors enjoin them to no other Penance, than to forbear one whole Day from eating thereof : It is said to have many good Properties ; being good against Poison, and for curing abundance of Diseases : I have a great Cup made of it, which holds a Pint ; it spoils Wine that is put into it, but it makes Water excellent, which seems as if it boil'd in it ; at least one may observe it to work and fret, if it is proper to say so ; and if one leaves it a little while, the Cup will be

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be quite empty, the Nature of the Earth making it so full of Pores; it has a strong Scent. We drank Water there, which was very well order'd; one may truly say, that in no Place they drink it cooler; they make use only of Snow, and are of opinion that it cools much better than Ice. It is the Custom here to drink very cold Water before they take their Chocolate, which otherwise they think it would be unwholesome.

After the Collation was ended, Flambeaux were brought in. There came in first a little simple Fellow, white with Age, who was Governor of the Pages: He had a great Gold Chain and a Medal about his Neck; this was the Present he had at the Prince of *Monteleon's* Marriage. He kneeled down upon one Knee in the Middle of the Gallery, and said aloud, *Let the most Holy Sacrament be praised!* to which every body answer'd, *For ever!* This is their Custom when Light is brought in. Next came in twenty-four Pages, following two and two, and in the same Manner kneel'd upon one Knee; every one of them brought two Flambeaux, or one Branch, and when they had placed them upon the Tables, went out with the same Ceremony; and then all the Ladies made to each other a low Bow, accompany'd with a Wish as when they sneeze. It is fit I should tell you that these Branches
are

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are full of Lamps fasten'd to a Silver Pillar, whose Foot is very broad ; there are generally eight or twelve Pipes to every Lamp, in which the Wick burns ; so that it gives a very great Light. And to increase it yet more, they fasten a Silver Plate to it, in such Manner, that the Light reflects upon it. One is not troubled with the Smoke, and the Oil they burn is altogether as good as that of *Provence*, which is eat with Salads. I lik'd this Fashion pretty well. When all the Lights were put in their proper Places in the Gallery, the young Princess of *Monteleon* bid her Women bring her Wedding-Cloaths, that I might see them. They brought thirty Silver Baskets full, which were as deep and as wide as Table-Baskets ; they were so heavy, that there were four Women to carry one Basket. In them, there was whatever is possible to be seen that is fine and rich, according to the Fashion of the Country. Amongst other Things, there were six of a certain Sort of Close-coat of Gold and Silver Brocade, made like Vests to wear in a Morning, with Buttons, some of Diamonds, and others of Emeralds ; and of these, every one had six Dozen. The Linen and the Lace were not inferior to the rest. She shew'd me her Jewels also, which were admirable, but so ill set, that the biggest there made no better

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ter a Shew than a Jewel set in *Paris*, which one may buy for thirty *Lewisses*.

I will not write to you often, because I will always have a Stock of News to tell you, which in this Place, is pretty long a picking up. Pardon this tedious Letter, and the little Method which I have observed in in it. I set Things down just as they come into my Mind, and that is ill enough; but in your Love, dear Cousin, I am safe from all my Faults.

From Madrid,
Mar. 29. 1679. ✓

The End of the FIRST VOLUME.



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